



African universities and science diplomacy in favour of alternative sources of energy

Wail Benjelloun

UNIMED - Union of Mediterranean Universities

w.benjelloun@uni-med.net

Sustainable Energy for Africa, Brussels 23-25 October 2017

Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences

NASAC MEMBERS SIGN-OFF

Academy of Science of Mozambique (ASM) - 

Academy of Science of South Africa - 

African Academy of Sciences - 

Benin National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters - 

Cameroon Academy of Sciences (CAS) - 

Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) - 

Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences - 

Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology in Morocco - 

Kenya National Academy of Sciences - 

Mauritius Academy of Sciences & Technology (MAST) - 

National Academie of Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Burkina faso - 

National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal (ANSTS) - 

Sudanese National Academy of Sciences (SNAS) - 

The Nigerian Academy of Science - 

Tanzanian Academy of Sciences - 

Togo National Academy of Science, Arts and Letters (ANSALT) - 

Uganda National Academy of Sciences - 

Zambia Academy of Sciences - 

Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences (ZAS) - 

HII Academy of Science and Technology

African Academy of Sciences + 19 national science academies

CPU Morocco

CRUE Spain

CPU France

CRUP Portugal

AUF

IRD

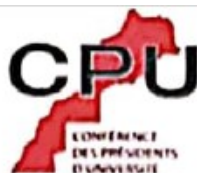
UNIMED



Parties (COP 22)

MARRAKECH
MOROCCO

7-18 November 2016



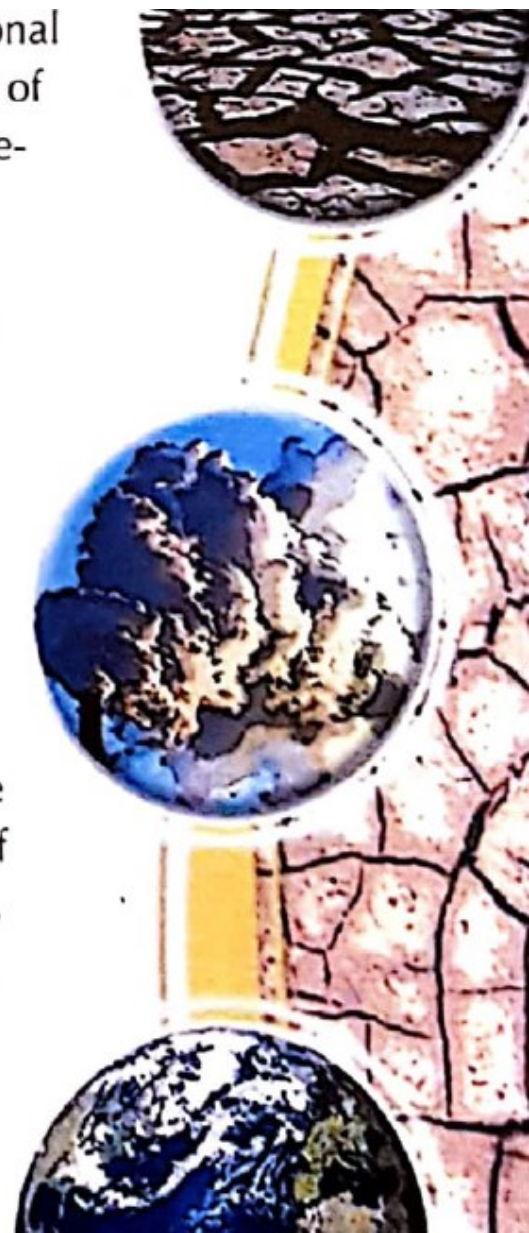
ACTIONS TO TACKLE THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS ON AFRICA

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS-RECTORS & VICE CHANCELLORS OF WORLD
UNIVERSITIES; THE NETWORK OF AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMIES (NASAC) AND
PUBLIC RESEARCH AGENCIES -COP22- MARRAKECH**

It is now scientifically well established that human activity has an important impact on the disturbance of ecosystem balance leading, amongst other things, to climate change and global warming. The combined effect of intensive increases in greenhouse gas emissions and the degradation of the natural carbon sinks had led to a deterioration of the earth's climate with dramatic consequences for nature, the environment and living systems, mainly in the most vulnerable regions such as Africa.

To face such potentially irreversible and permanent process, the international community has become incrementally conscious about the urgent need of taking proactive actions to tackle global warming and its nocuous consequences.

The 2015 Paris COP 21 which gathered 195 countries resulted in consensual decisions and important binding commitments, including : i) Engage both developed and developing countries in a collective effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and protect and develop the various natural carbon sinks, ii) Limit the global temperature increase well below 2 degree Celsius by the end of the century and not exceed 1.5 degrees for the coming decades, iii) Establish binding pledges by all signatory countries to make “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDCs) and set an international assessment and review process of the NDCs achievements, iv) Commit the developed countries to support the efforts of developing countries in terms of reduction in greenhouse gas emission, resilience, adaptation and mitigation, v) Mobilize, by 2020, \$100 billion per year for supporting the developing countries and mainly African ones and set a higher goal after 2025, vi) Set a mechanism to address “loss and damage” resulting from climate change and vii) Reinforce capacity building and transfer technology to developing countries.



While an important step was reached at the Paris COP21, the details for translating the binding agreement into practical and operational measures was left for subsequent COPs, mainly for the Marrakech-Morocco COP22. COP22-a Conference of Acts-has defined amongst its objectives and actions the 3A concept: Adaptation, Agriculture & Africa, proactively putting Africa's priorities at the core of the COP22 Agenda.

While Africa is currently the least polluting continent, producing only about 4% of the world's greenhouse gases it is the most impacted continent with dramatic consequences on its ecosystems, population and development. Such global warming has exacerbated several issues related to water scarcity and intensification of drought cycles, desertification, deterioration of agriculture and food security, alteration of the fauna and flora, intensification of pandemic and epidemic threats, increase in poverty and its interplay with the rural exodus, migration, criminality and conflicts.

Advances in both scientific knowledge and sustainable and environmental-friendly technologies are key to identify and implement appropriate solutions for addressing climate change threats and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in COP21 by the United Nations as a global framework for international cooperation. As a consequence, promotion of scientific research and academic/university training should be explicitly included in the operational implementation of the COP agreements.

Therefore, we, the Presidents-Rectors & Vice-Chancellors of world Universities, public research agencies and members of the Network of African Science Academies urge the international decision makers to:

1. concretely implement the binding commitments decided at COP21, with a clear agenda and transparent means for international assessment and review of the NDCs achievements based on scientific and technological evidence;
2. make firm commitments by countries and international institutions for the constitution and the functioning of the Green Fund and the Fund for Climate Change Adaptation;
3. implement urgently the mechanism to support the efforts of developing countries in terms of mitigation, resilience & adaptation to climate change, with a special focus on Africa due to its high vulnerability and also the high harm caused by global warming on the continent;
4. dedicate a special fund for restoring and promoting carbon sinks such as forests across the continent;
5. promote scientific research and collaboration, capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries, particularly African ones;
6. financially support the efforts made by developing countries, particularly Africa, to implement sustainable development policies and actions covering (renewable energies, sustainable agriculture, treatment, desalination and water management and protection of the fauna and the flora);

7. encourage gender equality and the involvement of women and youth in decision-making, particularly in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
8. adopt a formal commitment to strongly support environmental and climate change research by African scientists.

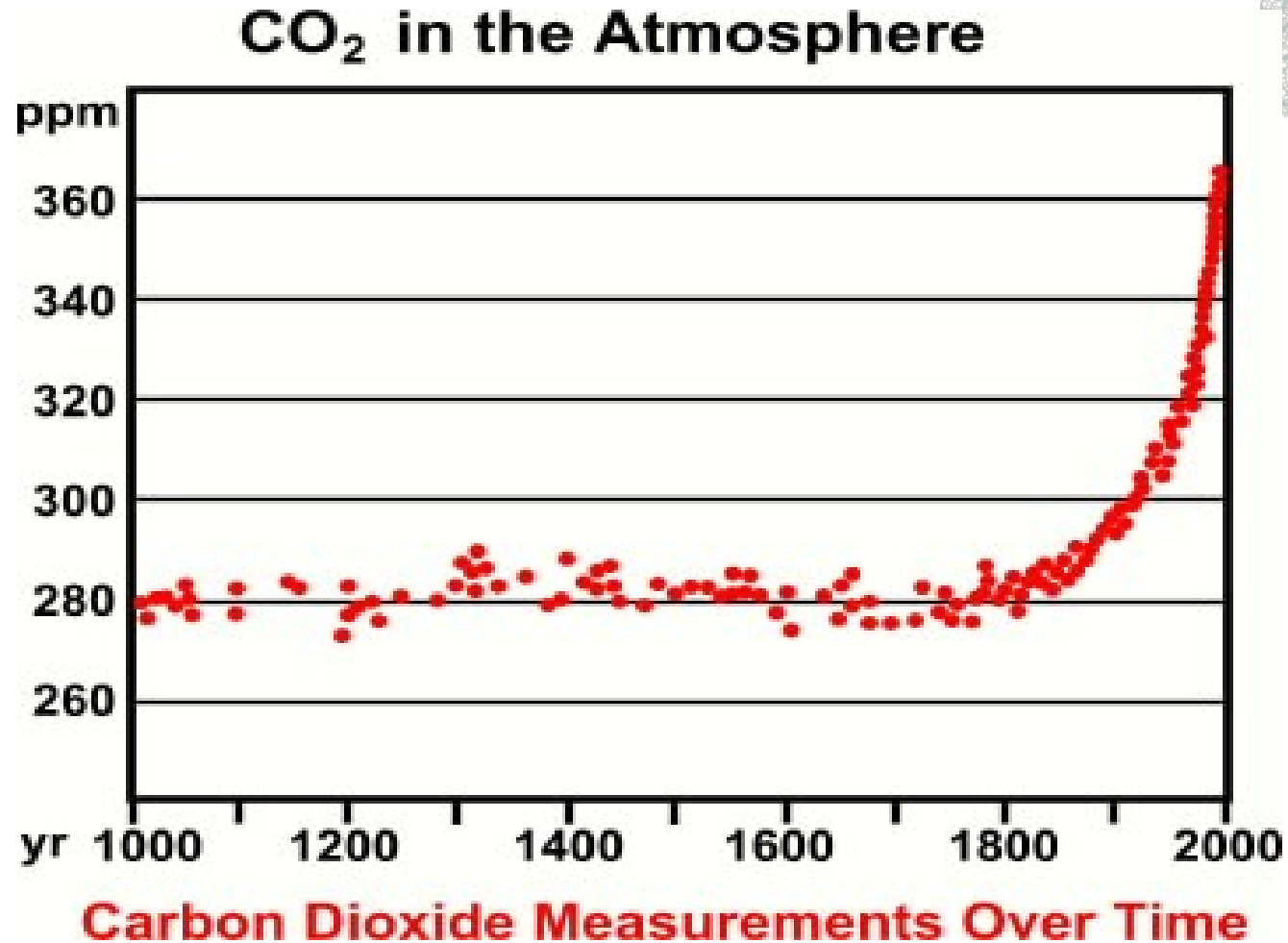
While the Presidents-Rectors & Vice-Chancellors of the world Universities, public research institutes and the Academies members of NASAC urge the African countries to work out an African vision, based on continental concertation, collaboration and exchange of information and expertise, on global warming and climate change taking into account local and geographical specificities, they also urge the United Nations, decision makers from the developed countries and international institutions to assign a specific fund to financially support concrete initiatives to be implemented in Africa. Their recommendations are focused on three main concrete initiatives:

1. Create an African network of national scientific observatories in various African countries to measure greenhouse gas emissions and to assess the impact of global warming on the environment, on fauna and the flora, on the health of populations and living systems, on desertification & water scarcity. Such scientific observatories would involve experts and researchers who will provide scientific-based evidence on climate change and its impacts to be used by African countries to design the adequate policies and actions for resilience, mitigation and adaption to global warming.

2. Create research and innovation centers and clusters dedicated to climate change and sustainable development in African Universities to be supported by the Green Fund.

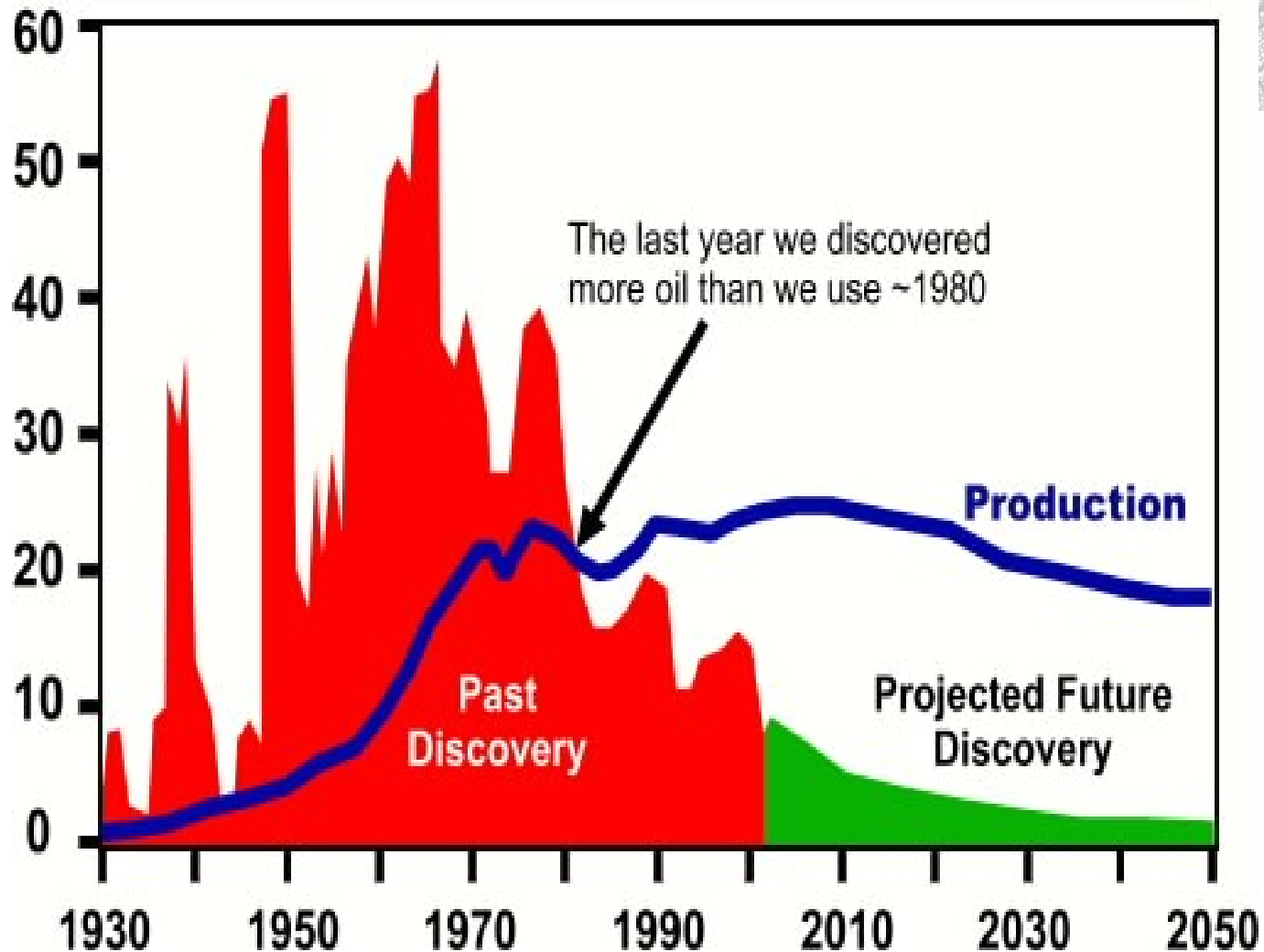
3. Create adapted curricula and training to build a green generation and support capacity building in southern countries with encouraged sharing of expertise and mobility of students and researchers.

The Carbon footprint



ASPO View of Global Discovery Curve

Billion barrels of Oil



Components of university sustainability



Source: ASPO

Universities initiatives(1)

- Assess university carbon footprint

Improve the university's environmental impact: Carbon footprint, energy audits, accessibility, diagnose water circuits.

- Work for biodiversity

Differential management of green spaces

- Improve mobility within campus

Avoid CO₂ generation

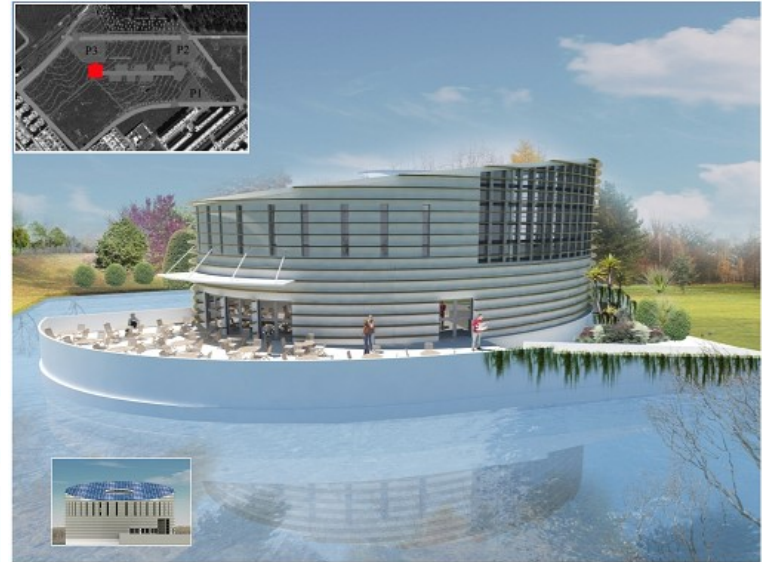
- Recycle waste

Campus activity generates chemical, biological and electronic wastes ...

University of Texas Student Services Bldg.



Mohammed V University Green campus, Tamesna





17 side events run by universities

Water-Energy-Food
Research and Innovation to address the nexus in the Mediterranean
15th November 2016 - 14:30 to 16:00
European Union Pavilion – Brussels Room (BLUE ZONE)

Land, food, energy, water and climate are interconnected through a complex system (a 'nexus'), dominated by interdependencies and linkages between human activities and natural environment. As countries industrialize, more water is needed for energy production and industry, as world population grows, more water is equally needed for agriculture and for cities. Competition for the different uses of water in a context of increasing scarcity is expected to grow, with important social implications, such as resettlements and migration, and with a high risk of tensions and conflicts. The nexus approach is then critical to secure an efficient and sustainable use of resources in an integrated manner and to mitigate the related social and economic impacts.

"Water-Energy-Food: research and innovation to address the nexus in the Mediterranean" is a European Commission side-event that will bring together institutional actors and research and innovation stakeholders to share insights into challenges and solutions for a low-carbon economy interlinked with sustainable management of resources. The discussion will reserve specific focus to the nexus challenges in the Mediterranean region.

PART I – PANEL DISCUSSION

From 14:30 to 15:30 - A high-level panel discussion where experts and institutional actors will join visitors to the EU pavilion on a discussion about the importance of research and innovation for the sustainable management of the nexus. Invited to this panel discussion are:

Moderator: Laila Mandi, *Professor of Environmental Sciences, University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech*
Speakers: Patrick Child, *Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (EC-DG RTD)*
Abdel-ilah Afifi, *Directeur du Budget et des Affaires Générales, Ministère de de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche scientifique et de la formation des cadres, Rabat.*
Diego Pavia, *CEO of INNOENERGY Knowledge and Innovation Community (EIT InnoEnergy)*
Wail Benjelloun, *President of the Union des Universités de la Méditerranée (UNIMED)*
Nicola Lamaddalena, *Head of Land and Water Department, International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM – Bari)*
Alexander Ritschel, *Head of Technology, MASDAR*

PART II – INFORMATION SESSION

From 15:30 to 16:00 – An information session, highlighting selected EU research and innovation projects and initiatives with focus on the Mediterranean region. The session will count with the presence of project experts and coordinators who will be available to answer questions from visitors.



Programme

<div> <div>COP22 Side-event</div> <div> Sustainable Universities for Sustainable Development </div> </div>	
18 novembre 2016 de 11 :00 à 12 :30 Salle Moulouya, Zone verte Marrakech	
11:00 – 11:10	Ouverture du Side-event : Pr Houdaïfa Ameziane, Président de l'Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi
Séance I Modérateur Pr. Houdaïfa Ameziane	
11:10 – 11:40	Conférence « Rôle des universités dans le développement durable », Pr. Wail Benjelloun, Ex-Président de l'Université Mohamed V, membre UNIMED
11:40 – 11:50	Contexte du réseau des universités méditerranéennes pour le développement durable: Pr. Mariane Domeizel, Vice-Présidente, Université de Marseille
Séance II Modérateur : Pr. Azzeddine Midaoui	
11:50 – 12:20	Table ronde « Actions à mener pour la construction du réseau des universités méditerranéennes pour le développement durable », Intervenants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pr Oma Halli, Président, Université Ibn Zohr - Pr Saaid Amzazi, Président, Université Mohamed V - Pr Bouchaib Mernari, Président, Université Sultan Molay Slimane - Pr Houdaïfa Ameziane, Président, Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi - Pr Azzeddine Midaoui, Président, Université Ibn Toufail - Plus les représentants des autres universités
12:20 – 12:30	Lecture de la déclaration d'intention et approbation, Pr. Ahmed El Moussaoui, vice-président, Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi

University initiatives (2)

▶ Develop exemplary policies

Introduce social and environmental criteria in university purchasing policies and encourage goods and service providers who respect human values and the environment.

▶ Train agents of sustainable development

Fully commit to the role of the university in supporting sustainable development and train green economy professionals

Undertake research for sustainable development

Engage in responsible social policies

Establish dynamic social policies: Accompanying success, respect for diversity and parity, improving work conditions, international perspective, enrich student campus life, involved in political and cultural issues ...

Participate in regional sustainable development

Work with citizens, elected officials and NGO's.

UNIMED- Union des Universités de la Méditerranée

- ▶ Based in Rome
- ▶ 100 universities / 25 countries
- ▶ Facilitates international university cooperation, through
 - Capacity building
 - Joint curricula and degrees
 - Research and innovation partnerships
 - Consultancies
 - Thematic subnetworks
 - European (and other) projects (7/17 on sustainability)
 - Support for regional councils (PACA, Sardinia, Dakhla)
- ▶ Initiative for Africa

UNIMED

Initiative for Africa

Program managed through the
UNIMED regional office in Rabat

Identification of the levers for
change

Encourage universities to engage in
sustainable development



UNIMED for AFRICA
a call for Action for African Universities





Noor I, Ouarzazate, Morocco

Thank you