COP21: Africa’s Common Positions
The 2°C vs 1.5°C Science-Policy Long-term Target

• 2°C global warming above pre-industrial era is a key target in climate policy negotiations, first proposed in the 1996 European Union Declaration

• Majority of countries that ratified the UNFCCC strongly object to this target as the long-term goal for keeping our climate system under reasonable level of danger.

• Least developed countries, promote instead 1.5°C as a more safer target consistent with current scientific findings.

• IPCC results suggest that limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2100 is a “major challenge” which will require deep cuts in GHG
Managing climate risks and opportunities against achieving growth
Observed change in the climate system:
Recent warming of the planet is unequivocal and unprecedented

- The planet is about 0.8°C warmer than it was in 1860, but there are substantial geographic differences in the rate of warming.
Addressing climate change is central to Africa’s development agenda because

- Weak resilience
- Greatly relied on climate-sensitive sectors (e.g., agriculture)
- Effects of climate change are already being felt in all sectors
Climate change impacts on crop production:

Climate change is likely to result in reduced yields of all major food staples in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as a loss of area that is currently suitable for these crops.

- Majority of cropped maize area is projected to experience negative impacts, with production reductions in the range 12-40%.
- Common bean yield is highly sensitive to climate.
- Suitability projections also suggest that opportunities may arise from expanding cropping areas in certain countries and regions (e.g., cassava towards more temperate regions in Southern Africa, or yam outside West Africa).
- Climate change will reduce area suitable for coffee, on average across emission scenarios, by about 50%, with coffee being most negatively impacted.
So, COP21 is important for Africa as it

- Provides important spaces to refine and strengthen the global collaborative and regulatory framework
- Improves global climate governance
- Is expected to usher into a post-Kyoto climate order
The ‘voluntary mitigation targets’ submitted by parties at COP 16 is:

- Insufficient to comply with 1.5-2.0 °C limit
- Resulted in global emission of 52 Gt CO$_2$e, which is higher than the expected aggregated global annual emission (44 Gt CO$_2$e)

Given the implication of global warming of 2 °C for Africa, the pre-2020 mitigation ambition should:

- Increase the emission reduction ambition before 2020
- Seek additional actions between 2015 and 2020
- Negotiate a legally binding framework
Global emissions – What to mitigate in Africa?

Mitigation - Global emissions

Total Annual Anthropogenic GHG Emissions by Groups of Gases 1970–2010

Global: 49Gt
Africa’s share < 2Gt !!
In the new climate agreement, two main issues:

- The “elements” ....what to cover and how?
- The “contribution” ...the scope and information to be provided in INDC

To have strong international regime than Kyoto Protocol, the “element” should cover all issues (i.e., mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance, capacity building and transparency) in a balanced and comprehensive manner.
The focus of discussion:

- Formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans
- Loss and damage (which proved problematic at Warsaw)

Major concerns:

- Low levels of finance, technology transfer and capacity building
- Achieving legal and political parity between mitigation and adaptation

CLIMATE DEBT = Need to ensure developed countries pay for adaptation under the mechanism
Finance

- Major issues under discussion
  - The full implementation of the existing finance commitments
  - Distinction between CF and ODA
  - Full and early capitalization of GCF
  - Short-term finance for the preparation of INDC
Technology and Capacity Building

- The discussion is to ensure
  - Removal of barriers preventing technology transfer
  - Operationalizing the technology transfer mechanisms
  - Extension of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building mandate

- In this context, the following focus areas are important for Africa
  - Renewable energy
  - “Comprehensive and Balanced” post-2020 agreement
  - Loss and damage
  - Finance roadmap
African Common Positions

- Commitment to the founding principles of Kyoto
  - Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)
  - Parity between adaptation and mitigation
  - Global responsibility for adaptation
  - Commitment to keeping warming between 1.5 and 2 degrees
  - Adequate Means of Implementation (Finance, Technology & Capacity Building)
  - Operationalization of the Warsaw Mechanism (Loss & Damage)

- African Group of Negotiators (AGN) is calling for
  - “Comprehensive agreement”
Current and projected urban population growth for selected cities for the periods 1995-2010 and 2010-2025. Percentage.

Conclusion

The progressive agreement at COP 21 in Paris should include:

- The adoption of binding climate change agreement
- Strong commitment to keep temperature below 2°C
- Importance of adaptation for Africa
- Commitment for additional and adequate finance
Thank you for your kind attention!
Merci beaucoup pour votre attention!