

NCE Side Event “Seizing Africa’s Growth, Energy and Climate Opportunities”, CCDA, Victoria Falls, 28 Oct 2015

Introductory comments by Dr. Fatima Denton, Director of the African Climate Policy Center of UNECA

- Welcome to the event *Seizing Africa’s Growth, Energy and Climate Opportunities*.
- We are here today to discuss a critical piece of the African development story: bringing together both strong climate action and economic growth. At the core of this, is the research carried out by the New Climate Economy project. Let me briefly introduce the New Climate Economy project and our session today.
- The New Climate Economy is the flagship project of the **Global Commission on the Economy and Climate** a major international initiative to examine and communicate the relationship between economic growth and climate change.
- The Commission comprises 28 global leaders drawn from 20 countries, chaired by former Mexican President Felipe Calderón and co-chaired by renowned economist Lord Nicholas Stern.
- It includes former heads of government and finance ministers, such as Ngozi Okonjo-Iwela, and Trevor Manuel; leading businesspeople, heads of international organizations, leading academics, etc.
- **The New Climate Economy** comes out of a partnership of eight economic and policy research institutes, located in the US, China, India, Korea, Sweden, the UK and Ethiopia.
- The project’s reports and outreach are aimed at informing leaders of governments, the business community, city and state authorities and civil society on actions that can deliver both economic growth and address climate risks, and to reframe the global debate about effective economic and climate policy.
- In addition to its own major annual reports, the NCE also produces working papers focusing on key sectors and countries.
- For Africa, the program has focused on the potential to unlock major growth and poverty reduction dividends through promoting sustainable development. Its contributions were provided as input to this year’s Africa Progress Report 2015 on climate change and energy, led by Kofi Annan’s Africa Progress Panel.
- Thus far, the NCE has already published research on Africa’s urbanization opportunities.
- I am also extremely pleased that here, today, and now, the New Climate Economy is launching two working papers about the Africa’s energy transformation which we will discuss in the panel. The NCE will shortly release papers on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, including tangible examples of key reform measures.
- Without further ado, let me introduce our panelists.
- **Ian De Cruz, is the Global Strategic Engagement Director of the NCE.** Ian will talk today about the NCEs major annual reports including its seminal 2014 report which demonstrated that economic growth and action on climate change can now be achieved together; and its

THE **NEW CLIMATE ECONOMY**

The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate

2015 report which boosts the economic case for climate action in the run-up to this year's COP21 in Paris.

- **Andrew Scott, is a Research Fellow in the Climate and Environment Programme, Overseas Development Institute.** He is also the lead author of the NCE Working Paper *Building Electricity Supplies in Africa for Growth and Universal Access*, which we are launching today.
- **Francis X. Johnson is a Senior Research Fellow and Anne Nyambane is a Research Associate, both are based at the Stockholm Environment Institute.** They will speak about the second working paper launched today, *Bringing clean, safe, affordable cooking energy to households across Africa: an agenda for action*.
- And finally, **Yamide Dagnet, who is a Senior Associate at the World Resource Institute.** WRI is the managing partner for the NCE and Yamide will speak about the Paris negotiations and consequences for Africa.