



CONCEPT NOTE

PRE-CCDA VI AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

THEME: From Paris to Marrakech: What is at stake for Africa?

DATE: 17TH OCTOBER, 2016

VENUE: ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1.0 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Paris Agreement, adopted last year in December at 21st session of Conference of the Parties (COP 21) by 196 parties (195 countries and the European Union) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was viewed as a landslide achievement in global efforts to mitigate the impacts and adapt to climate change. Moving forward and making the Paris Agreement successful therefore will rely heavily on the implementation of practical climate actions by all Parties.

The upcoming UNFCCC- COP 22 to be held in Marrakech, Morocco from 7th – 18th November, 2016, referred as “An Action and Implementation COP” is expected to begin the process of delivering concrete actions vital to operationalized the Paris Agreement. Several African countries are in the process of reviewing or operationalizing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which are key to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The critical importance of this Consultative workshop in the series of other mobilizations towards Marrakech and after Paris cannot be over-emphasized. This is because Marrakech will be a critical juncture in drawing a roadmap and action plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Among the key issues to be addressed in Marrakech – include transparency, capacity building, agreeing on a common accounting guidelines for NDCs and the provision of climate finance to developing countries. With considerable progress in the ratification of the Paris Agreement this year, an obvious, overarching issue of this year’s meeting will be the time at which the Agreement will likely become operational.

At the frontline of climate change impacts with least capacity to adapt is the African continent. The desires that the implementation of the Paris Agreement should be urgent, fair and equitable in line with the continent’s realities and aspirations is paramount at this time. The annual Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference which is the flagship event of ClimDev-Africa therefore provides a forum for moving such agenda and aspirations forward. The Conference is where stakeholders such as researchers, practitioners, policy makers, NGOs and CSOs from across the continent engage on climate change issues and push forward the Africa’s agenda on climate change and development. By enabling transparent and interactive discussions between key stakeholders in the climate and development community, the forum provides a very good backdrop to strengthen capacities in climate change discourses ahead of COPs.



The CLIMDEV-Africa programme will be holding the 6th Climate Change and Development Conference in Africa (CCDA VI) from 18th – 20th October, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia whose overall objective will be to understand the implications of the Paris Agreement’s implementation, nuances, challenges and opportunities for Africa in the context of the continent’s development priorities and capacity.

2.0 OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION APPROACH

In the last five years, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have convened the civil society segment of CCDAs in collaboration with many of its partners. It is in view of the above that the Alliance in collaboration with UNECA/ACPC is organizing the civil society segment (Pre-CCDA-VI) of the Sixth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-VI), scheduled to take place on 17th October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Pre-CCDA VI workshop aims to convene African civil society, development partners, the media and other stakeholders within the continent in unpacking the Paris Agreement and developing key messages to CCDA VI and COP22. The Pre-CCDA-VI event ultimately contributes to Africa’s preparedness for COP 22 and beyond, this is in line with this year's conference theme “*The Paris Climate Agreement: What Next for Africa?*”

The Objectives of the African Civil Society Pre-CCDA VI Consultative workshop include:-

- To deepen African Civil Society understanding on the Paris Agreement and examine its implication to Africa’s development agenda
- To identify and provide recommendations/strategies on the implementation of the Paris Agreement
- To develop key African Civil Society inputs and key messages for CCDA VI and UNFCCC-COP 22

The outcome from this event will ultimately feed into CCDA-VI and the forthcoming UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech in November, 2016. The Pre-CCDA VI workshop will be structured to brainstorm key issues under the Paris Agreement in line with the NDCs Ambition of African countries as well as the Means of Implementation of the NDCs in Africa (Finance, Technology, and Capacity Building). Plenary discussions and Group Discussions will be employed in ensuring that the expected outcomes of the workshops are realized.

The CCDA-VI will bring together policy makers, scientists and practitioners to deliberate on various sub-themes. Forty (40) participants will be invited to the workshop. These include: African Civil society, researchers, policy makers, African Group of Negotiators, development partners and the media.