



First Annual Conference on Climate Change  
and Development in Africa

## **Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa**

17-19 October 2011 ■ United Nations Conference Centre ■ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## **Outcome Statement**



Economic Commission for Africa

**ACP<sup>C</sup>**  
African Climate Policy Centre

### **ClimDev-Africa Partners**



Economic  
Commission  
for Africa



African  
Union



African  
Development Bank



# CCDA-I

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1. The first conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-I-I) was held from 17 - 19 October 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference was jointly organized by the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) partners including the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), supported by the United Nations family and development partners. The meeting brought together some 500 participants from African member states, regional economic communities, river basin organizations, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, academia and development partners.
2. The conference was opened by H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Opening statements were also delivered by Mr. Mr.Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA; Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chair, AUC; and Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General of TERI and Chair of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). A statement was also read on behalf of the president of AfDB by Dr. Abdirahman Beileh, Director, Agriculture and Agro-industry Department, African Development Bank.
3. In his opening statement, the Deputy Prime Minister called on African countries to integrate climate change adaptation in their respective national development plans. He emphasized that adaptation is the critical response to the impacts of climate change and highlighted the need to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. He ended by noting that the outcomes of this conference would be a significant input to the Durban COP17. Statements by other opening ceremony speakers also emphasized the importance of adaptation and mitigation, and underscored the need for concrete actions to achieve cuts in emissions to maintain global warming at its lowest possible level.
4. The overall objective of the conference was to establish a forum for dialogue, enhance awareness raising as well as mobilize effective commitment and actions through bringing together policy makers, academicians and practicing stakeholders with the aim of effectively integrating climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices in Africa. The CCDA-I conference also aimed to strengthen Africa's position and participation in international climate change negotiations with a view to ensuring adequate reflection of the continent's concerns and priorities in a post-2012 international climate change regime.
5. The title and theme for the conference, **Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa**, reflects the need to integrate development and climate policies, and emphasizes the importance of African ownership of the policy formulation and decision making process. In addressing the theme, the conference considered the following four sub-themes:
  - Sub-theme 1: Climate Science, Data, Information and Service Delivery
  - Sub-theme 2: Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation
  - Sub-theme 3: Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Development in Africa
  - Sub-theme 4: Economics and Finance of Climate Change

## High level dialogue:

6. A high level dialogue which featured a number of distinguished personalities including H.E. Ms Jennifer Webster, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Guyana; H.E. Dr Tewolde Berhan Gebre-Egziabher, Di-

rector General, Ethiopian Environment Protection Authority; H.E. Mrs Connie Hedegaard, European Union Climate Change Commissioner; Dr. R.K. Pachauri, DG TERI and Chair of the IPCC, Mr. John Ashton, UK Special Representative on Climate Change; Mr. Arba Diallo, Former Executive Secretary of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was organized as part of the conference.

7. The high level dialogue set the stage for the conference by highlighting the need for strong political leadership in the area of climate change and the importance of a people-centred approach to building adaptive capacity. The dialogue underscored Africa's development challenges in the context of climate change, including how African countries are pursuing their climate change agenda, and what this means for the continent's future and Africa's climate change negotiating position. More specifically, the dialogue concluded that climate change and development in Africa are inseparably interlinked, requiring strong institutions that are capable of undertaking policy analyses, generating knowledge and providing climate services. In this context, the dialogue further stressed the inter-linkages between adaptation and mitigation; the impact of climate change on livelihoods, such as reducing agricultural productivity and increasing water stresses; the importance of energy access for development, including transition to modern, non-grid energy technologies; the need for leveraging existing financing mechanism, including exploring innovative mechanisms; as well as the opportunities that will emerge from pursuing REDD+ as a development option. The conference, therefore, called for effectively mainstreaming climate change concerns into development planning.

## **Climate Science, Data, Information and Service Delivery**

8. The conference considered and discussed this sub-theme and corresponding topics, which covered and dealt with the review and state of climate science, data and information in Africa. The conference emphasized the crucial role of climate information in national development planning, in managing climate opportunities and risks, and for mitigation and adaptation. The conference further emphasized the need for scientifically established facts and knowledge through climate science and concluded that having in place sound data, information, knowledge, and service delivery mechanisms is essential to enable Africa to reach a common understanding of the evidence as well as the extent of the impact on its economic growth and social development. Further, it would serve as a sound basis for adopting evidence-based, action-oriented measures for addressing climate change in Africa.
9. After thorough deliberations the following recommendations were made on this sub-theme:-
  - a. African Member States are urged to mainstream climate change into their development policy, planning and practice;
  - b. African Member States are urged to build capacity to collect, analyze, and use climate data and information and, as such, to ensure this information is accessible to and usable by decision makers and practitioners at all levels. In this regard, ECA/ACPC in collaboration with the AUC, AfDB, and other institutions, are called upon to provide support to African Member States;
  - c. Regional centres of excellence are called upon to scale up Africa-focused climate research so as to improve the science base and reduce prediction uncertainties in climate variables relevant to users. In this regard, research should be relevant to local needs, practical and policy-driven;
  - d. African Member States are urged to engage African scientists at home and in Diaspora in the process of climate policy formulation and to encourage and enhance their participation in the process of generating new knowledge, such as modeling of climate change, as a contribution to capacity development in Africa;

- e. Global institutions, such as the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Climate Observation System, are called upon to scale up their support to Africa in all aspects of capacity building in climate data and information;
- f. African institutions and researchers, in collaboration with Climate research and modeling partners, are called upon to strengthen their research programmes so as to improve the performance of global and regional climate models in representing African climate and its drivers;
- g. African institutions and researchers are called upon to identify and prioritize urgent scientific questions hindering practical action on adaptation so as to better understand and resolve inconsistencies between model projections and other research findings on likely rainfall trends across Africa;
- h. ECA, AUC, AfDB and other partners should strengthen and expand networks, including a network of Centres of Excellence for data, climate science and applications in Africa. This network would serve as repository of knowledge on climate change issues and help in building capacities of individual countries and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Africa;
- i. Regional centres are urged to use advanced technologies (e.g., Remote Sensing, GIS and other relevant technologies and applications) to improve Africa's data capturing, storage, retrieval, analysis, and information generation and dissemination;
- j. African Member States, with the support of regional climate centres and Centres of Excellence, are urged to rehabilitate and upgrade meteorological and hydrological stations to international standards capable of collecting climate data and information;
- k. African Member States are urged to include observation system needs when preparing their national climate adaptation plans;
- l. African Member States and their regional institutions are urged to actively engage with the implementation of the emerging Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) currently coordinated by the WMO, to ensure the availability of, and access to, actionable climate information for decision making in all climate sensitive sectors.

## Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation

10. This sub-theme focused on the major issues related to climate resilient development and adaptation in Africa including the socio-economic challenges and risks posed by climate induced hazards and disasters, the monitoring measures and the analytically-informed policy responses for good climate risk management. Particular emphasis was placed on key livelihood sectors such as agriculture, water and health to underscore the importance of countries adopting climate resilient development and adaptation measures. The conference stressed that it was imperative for African countries to move along a development pathway that emphasizes poverty reduction, economic growth and the enhancement of human wellbeing, while increasing resilience to the physical impacts of climate change.
11. The following recommendations emerged from the discussion on this sub-theme:
  - a. African Member States are urged to strengthen their policies and interventions for effective climate change adaptation planning. In this regard, particular emphasis should be placed on increasing land-use efficiency, water-use efficiency and access, and agricultural productivity, with a view to enhancing climate resilience, especially for food production and security in Africa;
  - b. ECA, AUC/NEPAD, RECS and regional centres are urged to establish a work programme on agriculture under the Cancun adaptation framework that serves to link means of implementation (fi-

nance, technology transfer and capacity building) with essential components such as early warning systems, tools for seasonal weather communication, irrigation, fertilizer application, advances in crops (better seeds) and animal husbandry (breeding), and farmer-to-farmer technology sharing;

- c. African Member States are called upon to scale up investment in water control and management to enhance development and protect livelihoods;
- d. African Member States are encouraged to identify and scale up all avenues for increasing agricultural productivity through integrated mechanisms such as water management, soil enrichment, and enhanced fertilizer inputs, thereby increasing land-use efficiency as recommended by NEPAD, and to establish specific funding mechanisms for this purpose;
- e. African Member States are urged to work together with agricultural institutions to assess the cost and benefits of different policies and scenarios for moving countries towards increasing productivity as well as climate resilient and low carbon development pathways;
- f. African Parties to the UNFCCC are urged to consider hydropower development, covering various scales, as a clean development option and access financing for investment through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol;
- g. African Member States are urged to build capacity for research in climate change adaptation in the areas of agriculture, water management, energy, transport, and land-use planning and management;
- h. African Member States and research institutions are urged to consider climate change and the water sector in Africa within the framework of African river basins, since water supply and demand are usually considered in the context of these basins. Experiences dealing with climate change in any of the basins should be shared among, and the knowledge transferred to, other African river basin institutions;
- i. The UNFCCC is urged to establish more formal relationships with relevant institutions to monitor the latest science and developing crises in agriculture due to the effects of climate change, particularly in Africa, and to request those institutions to report regularly to the COP on their findings;
- j. Regional research institutions, including ECA/ACPC and Centres of Excellence, are encouraged to consider Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as instruments for climate change adaptation, and to employ existing frameworks, strategies and programmes for DRR that also consider climate change, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015;
- k. African scientists are encouraged to broaden the overall knowledge on the greenhouse gas emissions/climate change/agriculture/water nexus in African regions;
- l. African Member States are urged to scale up groundwater development in Africa, in order to meet challenges and opportunities across Africa resulting from climate change; the focus should be on resource availability, transboundary challenges, policy harmonization, accessibility, renewability, security and sustainability;
- m. African Member States and regional institutions are urged to establish continent-wide mechanisms to cope with climate-change-induced risks such as flood, drought and desertification in Africa;
- n. African Member States, RECs, ECA/ACPC, CSOs and other partners should scale up climate change awareness and advocacy.



## Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Development in Africa

12. The conference underscored the need for Africa to explore low carbon development within the context of the green economy. In this regard, the conference also addressed challenges of energy access, including transition to modern, non-grid energy technologies; improvement of forest governance to capitalize on REDD+ financing; and identification of opportunities in LULUCF across Africa. The conference recognized the fact that the pathway to a low carbon future will be complex, requiring policies that create an enabling environment for public and private sectors as well as cross-sectoral collaboration. The participants further exchanged views on best practices in emissions-reducing options as well as on carbon sequestration opportunities.
13. The following recommendations emerged from the discussion on this sub-theme:
  - a. African Member States, with the involvement of private and civil society organizations, are urged to develop strategies to advance low carbon development, taking into account the specific needs and context of African countries;
  - b. African Member States and RECs are urged to strengthen regional cooperation in service provision in sectors such as energy and agriculture to enable countries to focus on areas of comparative advantage;
  - c. Regional research institutions, including ECA/ACPC and other Centres of Excellence are encouraged to map out priority sectors to achieve low carbon development;
  - d. African Member States are urged to formulate and implement supportive policies that promote access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services to reduce poverty, improve health, increase productivity and promote economic development. In this regard, each Member State is encouraged to choose the appropriate energy mix for its specific economic and resource situation;
  - e. African Member States are encouraged to utilize existing international policy frameworks (e.g. CDM, NAMAs, etc.) and funding sources to promote and implement renewable energy development and deployment;
  - f. African Member States and RECs are urged to increase cooperation and knowledge sharing in the areas of sustainable transport policy and practice, to enable transport to facilitate low carbon development across Africa.
  - g. African Member States, with the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations, research community and other diverse stakeholders are encouraged to engage in the design and implementation of REDD+ policies and projects;
  - h. African Member States are encouraged to implement conservation policies in a manner that does not constrain their development;
  - i. African Member States are called upon to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, guaranteeing indigenous peoples' forest access and livelihoods under the REDD+ regime.

## Economics and Finance of Climate Change

14. Discussion under this sub-theme focused on the cost of climate change impacts on development in Africa. In this regard, the conference underscored the need for effective actions including innovative financing mechanisms to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change within a sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction context. The conference further underscored

the need to strike a balance between efforts on climate action and meeting immediate development imperatives.

15. The following recommendations emerged from the discussion on this sub-theme:
  - a. African Member States, with the support of research institutions at all levels and Centres of Excellence, are encouraged to strengthen the existing capacity of African researchers and policy makers to assess the risks posed by climate change and its economic implications;
  - b. African climate negotiators are urged to negotiate for a clear and internationally agreed baseline for 'new and additional' finance with a view to enhancing transparency and building trust between developed and developing countries;
  - c. Research institutions, including ECA/ACPC and other Centres of Excellence, are urged to investigate and build evidence of the costs of adaptation and mitigation in Africa, and to generate a range of estimates for adaptation and mitigation costs in Africa;
  - d. African Member States are encouraged to develop portfolios of projects and programmes for investment that are in line with development plans and priorities;
  - e. Research institutions, including ECA/ACPC and other Centres of Excellence, are urged to carry out analysis to leverage new climate funding through innovative engagement in the climate dialogue process and the Green Climate Fund; and are urged to develop new business models and innovative financial mechanisms to address the need to balance climate action and immediate development needs;
  - f. African Member States, with the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations and the research community, are urged to build the capacity of energy entrepreneurs to engage and employ innovative financing mechanisms for climate-related investment, such as the CDM and NAMAs.

## Other recommendations

16. The conference recognized the need for improved gender balance in the areas of work related to climate change and development, and the need for media to be more deeply engaged in this important area.
17. ECA/ACPC is urged to help improve on the current levels of understanding of climate change issues in the region through greater involvement of the media in its activities and as partners in future CCDAs. In this regard, the Conference took note of existing areas of improvement in the way the media covers climate change issues in Africa and underscored the urgent need to fill the gaps through specific and continuous training sessions.
18. The conference also requested that ECA/ACPC and other relevant organizations to establish a platform for exchange between senior government officials, researchers, civil society organizations, the private sector and other actors.