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SC13841

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
30 – 31 January 2015
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU/12(XXIV)
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
ON THE HIGH LEVEL WORK PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE
CHANGE ACTION IN AFRICA AND PREPARATIONS
FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE EVENTS IN 2014**

REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HIGH LEVEL WORK PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN AFRICA AND PREPARATIONS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE EVENTS IN 2014

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is prepared pursuant to African Union Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.538(XXIII)) on the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) and Preparations for the Global Climate Change Events In 2014.

2. It covers outcomes of deliberations of the preparatory meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) held on 22 September 2014 in New York; Africa's engagements at the UN Climate Summit held on 23rd September 2014 in New York; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP20/CMP10) that took place from 1 - 14 December 2014 in Lima, Peru.

II. CAHOSCC PREPARATORY MEETING

3. CAHOSCC held a meeting on 22 September 2014 in New York. The meeting deliberated on and adopted **Key Political Messages** that formed the basis of Africa's engagement at the UN Climate Summit and in the Global Climate negotiations with an emphasis on the importance of speaking in unity and focusing on the Africa Common Position.

III. UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

4. The CAHOSCC Coordinator, H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete delivered a Statement on behalf of Africa at the UN Climate Summit which was convened by the UN Secretary General on 23rd September 2014 in New York, on the margins of the 69th UN General Assembly.

5. The Summit provided a unique opportunity for the world leaders to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in actions that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience and mobilize political will, to facilitate a meaningful universal legally binding Agreement at the 2015 Climate Change Conference, in Paris, France in December this year. The Climate Summit was also attended by other African Heads of State and Government present as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who also made Statements during various segments of the Climate Summit.

IV. UNFCCC COP 20/CMP 10

6. The twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Tenth Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP20/CMP10) took place from 1-14 December 2015 in Lima, Peru.

7. The conference was preceded by regional meetings with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) meeting being convened from 27 to 28 November 2014. In addition, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) held its meeting on 7th December 2014 in Lima in preparation for high level segment of UNFCCC which took place 9 -12 December 2014.

8. The opening of the High Level Segment of COP20/CMP10 took place on Tuesday, 9th December 2014 and H.E. Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania representing the CAHOSCC Coordinator delivered a Statement on behalf of Africa highlighting adaptation and means of implementation as Africa's priorities as identified under the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA). The Statement also reaffirmed Africa's commitment to working with all parties to achieve a legally binding agreement in 2015.

9. UNFCCC COP 20/CMP10 which presented an important milestone towards reaching a universal, legally binding post-2020 climate agreement, successfully came to a conclusion in the early hours of 14 December 2014 after overtime negotiations amongst parties. It concluded with the Lima Call for Climate Action, which lays the groundwork for a 2015 climate agreement, including rules on how countries can submit Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) during the first quarter of 2015 for those in a position to do so, and for each party by 1st October 2015. The INDCs will form the foundation for climate action in post 2020 when the new agreement is set to come into effect.

10. The conference also adopted the draft elements for the new climate agreement to enhance the implementation of the Convention which will be negotiated during the forthcoming Sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) on climate change in 2015, starting from February 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

11. Through intense negotiations the conference achieved a range of outcomes and decisions on how the international community should tackle climate change, including addressing adaptation in the context of INDCs, financing for climate actions and preparations of the INDCs.

12. A new principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) which encompasses: historical responsibility; respective capacities and capabilities of countries; in light of national circumstances, was agreed.

V. UNFCCC COP 20/CMP10 OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO CAHOSCC KEY POLITICAL MESSAGES AND HIGH LEVEL WORK PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION IN AFRICA

13. The Lima outcome comprises a number of decision and decelerations, with some positive outcomes in some areas under WPCCAA and the CAHOSCC key political messages. These include:-

i) Capitalization of Green Fund (GCF) and provision of means of implementation.

14. Africa and other Developing countries had requested USD 15 billion as a target for this year and a clear roadmap for achieving the promised USD 100 billion by 2020. In Lima both developed and developing countries (Norway, Australia, Belgium, Peru, Colombia and Austria) announced pledges to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), bringing initial capitalization to about US\$10.2 billion. In addition, Germany made a pledge of 55 million Euros to the Adaptation Fund. China also announced \$10 million for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change. The United States of America pledged US\$3 billion to GCF. However much of the pledges were not new moneys and there was no clarity on the fulfilment of the promised 100 billion by 2020.

ii) Preparation and submission of INDCs and provision of means of implementation

15. It was agreed that adaptation may be included in the context of INDCs and that financing for climate actions and initiatives for developing countries and for supporting the preparations of the INDCs will be provided to. However the

16. Progress also was made on pushing towards elevating adaptation onto the same level as the curbing and cutting of greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). This will be done through the recognition that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

17. It was agreed that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will provide clarity on how countries can be supported with their NAPs which should increase the number of these plans coming forward for support.

iii) Adoption of the Lima Work Programme on Gender; and the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising.

18. COP 20 adopted work programmes and declaration on Programme on Gender; and the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising which calls for including climate change in school curricula and climate awareness in national development plans. This is in agreement with the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa which calls on the Commission, in collaboration with the relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and other relevant African institutions to develop a CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change to take into consideration women and gender in climate change related actions.

In this context, Africa championed and influenced the decision on gender balance and call for work programme.

19. In addition, Africa called for increased training, awareness and understanding of climate change politics and negotiation skills at the highest political and diplomatic level to increase the continent's competitiveness in trade and international financial flows to address climate change. Thus, COP 20 advances Africa's vision and initiatives on Climate change awareness and training.

20. Ensuring that developed countries while pronouncing their INDC should reflect on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Africa wanted the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) which encompasses: historical responsibility; respective capacities and capabilities of countries to form the basis for the new agreement. However, COP 20 agreed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities will be applied in light of national circumstances.

21. Inclusion of national circumstances and the exclusion of Equity from this important principle was a concern to Africa because it brings a new categorization of parties and may be used as an excuse by Annex I Parties not to take responsibilities based on their historical responsibilities. However the agreement that LDCs may communicate the type of INDCs at their discretion and that adaptation could also be communicated in the context of the INDCs reflected areas that Africa and LDCs (of which 34 are in Africa) were fighting for in the Lima outcome.

iv) Commitment to ratify the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol

22. Africa called for all countries to ratify the second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol to enable it enters into force. At COP 20 in Lima, Nauru and Tuvalu submitted their instrument of acceptance to the Doha amendment, bringing the number of Parties to twenty one (21). One hundred and forty four (144) are required to bring it into force. Four African countries have ratified the Doha amendment (Sudan, Morocco, Kenya and the Comoros), other African countries including Tanzania are in the process of ratification. The United Nations is encouraging governments to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020.

v) Other items at COP 20 relevant to CAHOSCC

23. **The interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage** was extended for two years with a balanced representation of members from developing and developed countries. A work programme was also established under the Committee with a number of action areas, including enhancing the understanding of how loss and damage due to climate change affects particularly vulnerable developing countries and populations, and better the understanding of how

climate change impacts human migration and displacement. This decision is in line with the African priorities.

24. Africa Day in Lima: - The Commission also coordinated the Africa Day side event, jointly co-hosted by the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Mozambique, AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, AfDB and UNECA along with the AMCEN Secretariat. Africa Day was held on 10 December 2014 under the theme “*Africa in a Post-2015 New Climate Change Agreement.*” His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Ghalib Bilal, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania officiated the event which underscored the imperatives of having a new Climate Change Agreement in Paris in 2015, and an agreement that takes into account the specificities of the African continent.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25. In conclusion, implementing the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) will strengthen Africa’s voice towards discussion and adoption of the new climate agreement in Paris. Equally important, the key political messages adopted at the CAHOSCC Meeting in New York, September 2014 are still valid and should guide the AMCEN and AGN in the process of negotiating a new agreement during this year.

26. 2015 is critical for the continent in the context of climate change. Africa needs to start early preparations for the 2015 negotiations starting with the forthcoming the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action's (ADP) on climate change sessions scheduled to begin in February 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, for which the draft elements for the new climate agreement will form the basis for the negotiations. A Draft Decision is being submitted for consideration by the Assembly. The AGN has been doing a terrific job and needs to be supported and encouraged to negotiate with full confidence and mandate. African parties are urged to support their specific country negotiators and give encouragement to participate and negotiate with one voice for the interest of the Continent.

27. The CAHOSCC Coordinator expresses appreciation to the Commission and its partners for the support in implementing activities mentioned in this report and in moving Africa’s Climate Agenda forward.

2015-01-30

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