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# REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

# ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE EVENTS IN 2015

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## I. INTRODUCTION

**1.** This Report covers the outcomes of deliberations of the preparatory meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) held on 15 June 2015 in Johannesburg; Africa's engagements at the UNFCCC meetings in Geneva (8-13 February 2015), and in Bonn (1-11 June 2015), as well as the informal consultations in Paris (6-8 May 2015).

## II. CAHOSCC PREPARATORY MEETING

**2.** CAHOSCC held a meeting on 15 June 2015 in Johannesburg. The meeting aimed at updating the CAHOSCC members on the state of play in the global Climate Change negotiations and to deliberate on Africa's engagement in this regard with an emphasis on the importance of speaking in unity and focusing on the Africa Common Position.

## III. CLIMATE FINANCING AND ADDRESSING TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

**3.** It was recalled that Africa needs USD 7 - 15 billion to address climate change adaptation but by 2012, Africa had received USD 132 million only. Mitigation actions need 52-68 billion USD per year by 2030 to put Africa on a low carbon development path. These funds cannot be available from Africa's domestic resources.

**4.** The number of African National Designated Authorities (NDA) and focal points nominations submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) reached 46. Among these countries, 27 countries have requested readiness support, and the GCF Secretariat have engaged with them to identify specific needs, delivery modality and to progress readiness funding proposals.

**5.** Moreover, Nine African Countries have submitted their nomination letters supporting the accreditation of 15 entities to undertake projects and programs financed by the GCF. Two of these entities have been accredited, six have application under review and the remaining seven are in the process of compiling their applications.

**6.** The GCF Secretariat is in the process of mounting a workshop on 5 September in Alexandria, Egypt for all 46 African NDAs, in order to strengthen African capacities with regard to readiness and accessing GCF funds.

**7.** For Africa to be on a sustainable path, Technology is the key and the game changer. African capacities to access, acquire and deploy the appropriate, reliable, and affordable clean and environmentally sound technologies should be strengthened.

**8.** The Number of African National Designated Entities (NDEs) established for Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) reached 32.

**Recommendations**

**9.** The meeting exchanged views and agreed on the following recommendations:

a) Urge Member States to continue putting in place systems and structures for Africa to take full advantage of the global mechanisms in terms of finance and technology, in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;

b) Urge Member States, that have not done so, to continue putting in place National Designated Authorities (NDA) and National Implementing Entities, to facilitate access and utilization of available resources from the GCF;

c) Urge Member States,that have not done so, to continue establishing National Designated Entities (NDA) for the CTCN.

## IV. ACTIONS ON MITIGATION

### A. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

**10.** Africa can participate in the global mitigation efforts through implementing the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) which opens up opportunities for investment in areas such as energy diversification, efficiency in industrial processes, transport systems fuel switching and waste management.

### B. Renewable Energy

**11.** Today the 54 countries of Africa have around 1 billion inhabitants and the continent’s population will grow to around 2 billion by 2050. Ensuring the wellbeing of these people requires, among other things, access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy. Access to electricity services is a prerequisite for human development and well-being as well as prosperous economic development and job creation. Africa needs to address 'access to energy' through an expansion of electricity generating capacity, both on grid and off grid.

**12.** Although Africa has energy resources and potential exceeding its current needs, the majority of its people experience an energy deficit. The case of electricity stands out: more than half of the continent’s population does not have any access to electric services. Africa must scale up access to energy, to meet the needs of an expanding population, while also curbing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions to contribute in the global efforts, led by developed countries, in accordance with their historical responsibility, to address the threat of climate change.

**13.** However, as most of Africa is rural and has poor grid coverage, in a business-as-usual scenario large proportions of rural areas will not have access to the grid for many decades. A transformative renewable energy initiative must therefore explicitly prioritize access to electricity, recognizing much of this would need to be done

through off-grid solutions that require additional incentives, support and capacity building measures. A number of countries have already begun to deploy renewable energy at scale, both on and off grid – meaning valuable African expertise in moving towards a new, modern distributed renewable energy model is increasingly becoming available and lessons can be shared with neighbours.

**14.** In recent years, over half of capacity additions globally have been from renewable sources, driven by falling prices that have made utility-scale solar PV and onshore wind increasingly cost competitive with fossil fuel-based power generation. For example, over the last five years the cost of solar PV modules has fallen by about 75% and power generation costs from renewable resources have become the cheapest options in many locations. Decentralized renewable energy hybrid systems are also 'coming of age', and are increasingly attractive for rural "energisation".

**15.** As a contribution to global efforts, led by developed countries, to address climate and development, a bold regional response is taking shape in the African Renewable Energy Initiative, suggested by the AGN, as a new and transformational partnership for accelerated renewable energy access and deployment on the African continent. The aim is to catalyse a major scaling up of renewable deployment to help African countries meet their expanding energy needs, achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty. The goal is to provide at least 10,000 MW of additional renewable energy capacity and associated strengthening and 'smartening' of grids at different scales, in the immediate term by 2020. This would serve as Phase I of the initiative, and would be used to build the capacity and experience required for a significantly expanded effort post-2020.

**16.** Africa has taken international leadership by calling for an ambitious global partnership and support programme for transformation to renewable energy systems in all countries. This proposal by the AGN was acknowledged by AMCEN in its decision 15/9 which: "Calls on the Green Climate Fund, and all partners to support the full operationalization of the Africa Group Renewable Energy Initiative in order to set in motion concrete pilot activities and projects with a view to demonstrate the full potential of such incentives and lay the foundation for rapid and massive scaling-up."

**17.** Two technical meetings have been organized by UNEP to exchange ideas and elaborate more on possible proposals in this regard, the first took place in Addis Ababa on 17th March, and the second took place in Cairo on 23rd May 2015.

**18.** The declaration of the G7 Summit, held 7-8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Germany, called for accelerated access to renewable energy in Africa. It suggested that an action plan will be developed to be presented at the Ministerial meeting for climate finance which will take place in Lima during the IMF/World Bank 2015 Annual Meetings.

**19.** Many initiatives are taking shape and lots of efforts are being invested with regard to renewable energy in Africa. It is critically important to ensure African leadership and ownership, coordination and synergy to avoid duplication and competition, and that these initiatives reflects African position and interests, as well as that it brings added value in terms of improving African productive capacities, and technology development and transfer in the field of renewable technology.

**20.** It is equally important for Africa to develop an initiative in the area of adaptation consisting of providing enhanced support for adaptation in Africa, in view if the importance of adaptation for Africa, and in accordance with African common position emphasizing the need to have parity between adaptation and mitigation.

**Recommendations**

**21.** The meeting exchanged views and agreed on the following recommendations:

(a) Recalls the Summit's decision on AMCEN's flagship program on Renewable energy, and urges the importance of its implementation, and to liaise in this regard with AUC, NEPAD, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and Irena, and make sure that all other initiatives and proposals are aligned with the flagship program, and funding is accessed from the GCF , with AMCEN President leading the work in this regard;

(b) Agrees to this effect that a technical group chaired by AMCEN president, comprised of AUC, NEPAD Agency, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and IRENA formulate concrete proposals and projects, in order to avoid duplication and ensure unity of purpose for Africa, in line with Agenda 2063;

(c) Takes note of the call by the leaders of the G7, during the Summit held from 7-8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Gremany, for accelerated access to renewable energy in Africa, and welcomes the expression of support towards Africa. In this regard the G7 is urged to consult and work closely with the technical group under the leadership and guidance of AMCEN to ensure Africa's ownership and leadership of these initiatives.

(d) Encourages AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for enhanced support to Africa on adaptation and on loss and damage, in the context of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund.

## V. Global Climate negotiations

### A. Adhoc Working Group on Durban Platform (ADP 2.8) (Geneva, 8-13 February 2015)

**22.** The Meeting aimed at producing a negotiating text, according to the mandate from Lima. The conduct of the Geneva ADP session by the new ADP Co-chairs, were viewed positively by Parties as being transparent, inclusive and “Party-driven. At the end of the meeting, Parties agreed to the ‘Geneva text’, which is 86 pages long (comprised of the Lima text and the additions made in Geneva), as the basis of negotiations which begun in Bonn, (from 1st to 11 June 2015).

**23.** The African Group stressed during the meeting that ADP negotiations are aimed at achieving an agreement with legal force that strengthen the current multilateral rules-based regime; thus it should be under and guided by the principles and provisions of the Convention. The Group underscored that it expects the inclusion in the agreement of temperature goal, associated emission reduction goals,

adaptation goal, with its associated finance and technology support. The global goal for adaptation is a mechanism to recognize the global responsibility and obligatory nature of adaptation to the international community.

**24.** With regard to mitigation, the African Group underscored the importance of treating differentiation of commitments in the 2015 Agreement in a manner consistent with articles 3 and 4 of the Convention. The Group reiterated that Departing from such principles shall not be acceptable.

**25.** On finance, the Group emphasized that Paris Agreement should deal with the current gaps and ensure the full inclusion of the following elements:

- Clear principles that guides the provisions of finance from developed countries to developing countries, in line with the responsibilities clearly identified under the Convention and other relevant decisions;

- Clear quantified targets that link the level of support to the temperature target and stresses on the linkage of actions of developing countries and support provided to them and in line with their needs as identified by them, with a process to regularly review and update the level of support to be provided to developing countries;

- Anchoring the existing financial mechanism and existing funds including the Adaptation fund as part of the delivery channels;

- Clarifying the sources of finance and allowing for transparency and MRV of financial flows from developed country parties to developing countries;

- Operationalizing agreed criteria of new and additional, predictable, sustainable, adequate and burden sharing criteria among developed countries.

**26.** On technology development and transfer, the African Group called for strengthening the existing Technology Mechanism established under the Convention, in its functions, mandate and modalities of work and through establishing a formal linkage between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism Under the Convention to ensure the implementation of concrete actions in developing countries, and in particular in the most vulnerable ones, such as Africa.

## B. Paris Informal Consultations (Paris, 6-8 May 2015)

**27.** The Governments of Peru, which holds the Presidency of COP 20, and France, which will assume the presidency of COP 21, organized informal consultations in Paris from 6-8 May 2015. Forty Nine (49) Parties were represented mostly at Head of Delegation level, as well as the ADP Co-chairs, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and the team of the Secretary General of the United Nations. Africa was represented through Egypt (Coordinator of CAHOSCC and Chair of AMCEN), Sudan (Chair of AGN), South Africa (Chair of G77 and China), Angola (Chair of LDCs), Kenya and DRC.

**28.** The Agenda was organized so as to enable the discussion of a range of issues dealing with different aspects of "ambition" under the Paris agreement" ways to raise ambition before 2020, setting long term goals, and the question of review process and cycles.

**29.** The African Group stressed that increasing ambition requires the following three key elements:

- Urgent leadership from developed countries expressed in increased mitigation and accelerated mobilization of the 100 Billion USD pledges;

- Full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through implementation of the outcomes of the Bali Action Plan;

- Beyond this – Increasing ambition will require a substantially scaled-up “ambition agenda” in the pre-2020 period.

**30.** Discussions around the 3 main themes of the agenda showed that the issue of differentiation is at the core of the debate in a cross-cutting manner, as developed countries parties were pushing for same obligations and commitments for all parties, while developing countries parties were pushing back by insisting on differentiating between them and their developed counterparts.

## C. Bonn Climate Change Conference (Bonn, 1-11 June 2015)

**31.** The Bonn Climate Change Conference took place from 1-11 June 2015, in Bonn, Germany. The forty-second sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 42) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 42), and the ninth meeting of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2-9) were convened from 1-11 June 2015.

**32.** ADP 2-9 agenda (adopted since ADP 2-1) is structured around work stream 1 (2015 agreement) and work stream 2 (pre-2020 ambition). Under work stream 1, the ADP discussed: mitigation; adaptation; finance, technology and capacity building (means of implementation); transparency; intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs); and other issues related to elements. Under work stream 2, Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) met on the subject of renewable energy supply and accelerating energy efficiency action in urban environments.

**33.** The Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) considered routine agenda items on: national reporting requirements; market and non-market mechanisms; technology transfer; adaptation; capacity building; least developed countries (LDCs); response measures; gender and climate change; agriculture; science and review; and methodological issues under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

**34.** According to the ADP mandate, the new agreement should be adopted by COP21 in Paris (2015) and to be implemented from 2020. The ADP 2.9 meeting aimed at preparing a concise, coherent and streamlined text so as to facilitate negotiations of substantive issues among Parties, building on the Geneva text. Parties demonstrated a positive and constructive spirit, even though the pace of

negotiations could be enhanced. In that regard, the African Group of Negotiators has sought to help the process and the co-chairs of the ADP in ensuring a party-driven, transparent, inclusive process, a key ingredient to the Paris outcome. The negotiating text progressed towards a coherent form where the various options for the agreement can be negotiated in the additional sessions in August and October, such that Ministers can address clear political decisions in Paris.

**35.** The African Group of Negotiators emphasized the importance of capturing the progress in the negotiations through revised versions of the Geneva text, such that the agreement emanates from the Party text. The group further emphasized the importance of the Paris agreement resulting in a multilateral rules-based international regime for the period beyond 2020. With the AMCEN having met in Cairo on 05-06 March 2015, the African Group of Negotiators outlined the AMCEN vision for the 2015 Agreement, amongst other considerations that,

- The agreement will be under the Convention and in accordance with its principles and provisions in particular the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity. Further enhance the implementation of the Convention and its Annexes, be consistent with science and equity, and further enhance a multilateral rules based system in a balanced and ambitious manner;

- The agreement will provide parity between mitigation and adaptation, noting the increased burden for adaptation in developing countries from inadequate aggregate mitigation efforts. Further, the agreement should ensure mitigation ambition keeps the world on track for global temperature increase that is well below 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels by the end of the century;

- The agreement will operationalise the global responsibility for adaptation, through a global goal for adaptation that enhances the implementation of adaptation commitments under the Convention, which recognise adaptation investments by developing countries, adaptation needs and costs including adequacy of support from developed countries;

- The agreement should reaffirm the international obligation for all developed country Parties and other Parties included in Annex II to provide climate finance, and technology to developing countries as a means to enhancing action towards achieving the objectives of the Convention;

- Increasing ambition before 2020, where urgent leadership from developed countries expressed in increased mitigation and accelerated mobilization of the US$100 billion pledged to support the concrete adaptation and mitigation actions; Full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through implementation of the outcomes of the Bali Action Plan; beyond this - increasing ambition will require a substantially scaled-up “ambition agenda” in the pre-2020 period.

**36.** Work stream 2 continued the technical expert process (TEP) to identify mitigation opportunities with adaptation, health and sustainable development co-benefits, with a focus on renewable energy supply and energy efficiency in urban environments. At the stocktaking, developed countries were urged to revisit their

2020 targets, remove conditionalities, and enhance support for developing countries, as mandated by paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision 1/CP.19.

**37.** Based on an African Group text, the G77 and China made significant progress in elaborating a substantial and ambitious draft Paris decision text on Work stream 2 recognizing the need to accelerate implementation of the Convention, strengthen the technical examination process for mitigation, launch a parallel technical examination process for adaptation, and enhance high-level engagement.

**38.** Significant support was forthcoming for the African Group's proposed global support initiative for renewable energy, as well as for the complementary continental-level initiative being advanced through a working Group chaired by AMCEN Chair, and including AUC, NEPAD, AGN, AfDB, UNEP, IRENA.

**39.** The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technology Advice (SBSTA) provides as appropriate, assessment on the scientific knowledge on climate change and guidance for the implementation of the Convention including to responding to scientific, technological and methodological questions from Parties. Accordingly, the 42th Session of the SBSTA discussed matters on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) African group highlighted the importance of taking on broad also the non-carbon benefits in the REDD+ process and made concrete submission on non-carbon benefit. On agriculture the discussion focused on developing early warning systems and contingency plans and assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios. SBSTA also discussed matters relating to science and review including the 2013-2015 review that will inform also inform the negotiations of the 2015 agreement on the adequacy of the long-term global goal of 2 $C^o$ and 1.5 $C^o$ and over all progress made towards achieving it. Furthermore, SBSTA 42 agenda discussed issues on the impact of the implementation of response measures, after allowing Parties to share information, experience and case studies on its social and economic implication.

**40.** The Subsidiary Body for Implementation assist the Conference of the Parties in the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention. The SBI 42th discussed issues such as national Adaptation Plans, capacity building, Nairobi work programme, education training and public awareness and technology transfer to developing countries. The Africa Group reiterated the importance of the process of formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in the discussion, the group also stressed the importance technology development and transfer by better enhancing the Poznan Strategic Programme as the only window that supports developing countries actions on technology transfer such as the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA). On capacity building for the implementation of the Convention, the Africa group highlighted the importance of capacity building for the effective implementation of the Convention and called for a permanent institution to be established under the convention to ensure coherent support to capacity building of developing countries.

**41.** In general, the main focus of the Bonn climate conference was on the ADP process because of the promises it holds for addressing the gabs in the implementation of the Convention though enhanced actions and the fact that ADP

needs to complete its work and adopt a legal binding agreement by next December in COP 21 in Paris. During Bonn conference, Parties were positively engaging to ensure that ADP will meeting expectation and deadlines. The ADP 2.9 meeting aimed at preparing a concise, coherent and streamlined text so as to facilitate negotiations of substantive issues among Parties, building on the Geneva text; however, progress in this regard has been limited, and thus raises some concerns regarding the management of the negotiations process in view of the limited remaining time, so as to ensure a fair, balanced, party-driven and successful outcome in COP 21.

## V. Other EVENTS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

### A. Regional Capacity Building Workshop on INDCs for Africa

**42.** In accordance with Decision 15/8 (March 2015) of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Egypt organized the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on INDCs for Africa during the period from 17 – 19 May 2015 in Cairo. The Organization of the workshop was supported by AGN, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, USA, and Italy.

**43.** The aim of the workshop was to build common understanding among African countries on the various issues involved in the preparation and communication of the INDCs, and to develop African capacities in terms of developing and negotiating INDCs.

**44.** Forty three (43) Participants representing 32 African Countries[1] participated in the workshop. In addition to that, 18 participants including main speakers, resource persons, representatives of UN agencies, representatives of think tanks, civil society, as well as representatives of the French Presidency of COP 21, and the US took part in the workshop.

**45.** The main key messages that transpired from the workshop deliberations and discussions are:

- Adaptation must be framed as a global obligation that must be an integral part of the 2015 agreement. Investments by African countries in adaptation should be recognized as a contribution to the global effort on climate change, as the increasing adaptation burden diverts resources from other developmental activities;

- Even if African countries do not have significant information on adaptation, it is important to present best available information on adaptation planning aspirations, adaptation needs, and where possible past adaptation investments;

[1] Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- Undertakings by Annex II Parties to provide support need to be considerably strengthened in the presentation of INDCs, and in the 2015 Agreement, and a call on developed countries to communicate their undertakings for support post 2020 was seen as an important step to a successful agreement in Paris;

- The linkage between mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation need to be emphasized and strengthened;

- On mitigation, African countries are encouraged to present mitigation potential premised on support available, until there is clarity of post-2020 support arrangements;

- Participants expressed caution on reflecting supported vs unsupported actions, prior to clarity of explicit obligations by developed countries in providing support for climate action in developing countries, taking into consideration the need to not prejudge the outcome of negotiations through the development of INDCs, as the current regime stipulates that, for developing countries appropriate mitigation actions are voluntary, and depend on the extent of support received in terms of finance, technology and capacity building from developed countries.

- Affirm the specificity of national circumstances, and urgency for provision of support to vulnerable countries, particularly Africa;

- INDCs should be used as a pipeline for support by the GCF under the guidance of the AMCEN Chair;

- The need to improve and upgrade the AGN-INDC guidelines and template. Simplicity in the guideline, and factualness should inform the further update of the AGN-INDC Guideline.

**46.** During the workshop, the following two requests were addressed to AMCEN:

- To organise a workshop/ event to develop African capacities with regard to submitting project proposals to GCF. In this regard, it was noted that the GCF Secretariat is in the process of mounting a workshop on 5th September 2015 in Alexandria, Egypt for all the 46 African Designated Authorities;

- To help identifying resources (experts/ financial) needed for African countries to develop their INDCs.

**Recommendations**

**47.** The meeting exchanged views and agreed on the following recommendations:

a) Request AGN to review and upgrade their guidelines for INDCs, in view of the deliberations and outcome of the workshop;

b) Request AMCEN to make available the AGN-INDC guidelines, as well as the outcome of the workshop, through electronic means;

c) Encourage All African Countries to make use of the updates AGN – INDC guidelines, when preparing and developing their INDCs.

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