

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: www.africa-union.org

ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Nineteenth Ordinary Session

15 – 16 July 2012

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU/10(XIX)

Original: English

**REPORT OF H.E. MR. MELES ZENAWI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AND
COORDINATOR OF THE COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CAHOSCC)
ON AFRICA'S PREPARATION FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE
NEGOTIATIONS AT THE 18TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) (COP 18)**

**REPORT OF H.E. MR. MELES ZENAWI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AND COORDINATOR OF THE
COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON
CLIMATE CHANGE (CAHOSCC) ON AFRICA'S PREPARATION FOR THE
CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE 18TH CONFERENCE
OF PARTIES OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) (COP 18)**

A. Introduction

1. This report is prepared pursuant to AU Assembly Decision on climate change (**Assembly/AU/Dec.399 (XVIII)**) in lieu of Africa's preparation for the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (CoP18/CMP8), which is scheduled to hold from 26th November to 7th December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. The Decision requested the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to nominate the three African Members to the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the support of the Commission; and in consultation with the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) who will periodically report through the Commission to CAHOSCC. The decision further requested the Commission to step up its efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective Africa's preparation for the COP18/CMP8.

2. The Report covers progress on implementation of the Assembly Decision and on the key outcomes of the negotiations held in Bonn, Germany in preparation for COP18/CMP8. It will also attempt to outline implications of events post Durban, and propose recommendations for consideration.

B. Nominations to the Board of Green Climate Fund, and Committees on Adaptation and Finance

3. Benin, Egypt and South Africa have been nominated by the AGN as representatives of Africa in the Green Climate Fund, while Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea Bissau were nominated as alternates.

4. Algeria and Zimbabwe have been nominated for Adaptation Committee.

5. Kenya and Mali have been nominated for Standing Committee on Finance.

C. Progress on Climate Change Negotiations and Key Outcomes

6. The climate change talks held in Bonn, Germany from 14 – 25 May 2012 was the first preparatory meeting after the Durban Conference (COP17/CMP7) towards COP18/CMP8. Parties made progress in ensuring that this year's conference in Doha, can take the next essential steps towards meeting the long-term challenge of climate change. The Bonn Talks considered: Adaptation (finance), Mitigation (length of the KP), Technology and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for

Enhanced Action established at COP17/CMP7. The Bonn meeting comprised sessions on the UNFCCC Bodies, including among others the 1st session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

7. In terms of outcomes, despite the slow pace of negotiations, progress was made on some key issues as follows:

- (i) On the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), Parties agreed on the organization of work and the agenda; and the election of officers on a multi-year arrangement for the Bureau pending endorsement by the COP in Doha. The African Group is expected to Co-Chair in 2015 on behalf of the Non-Annex I Parties. The ADP is tasked to adopt a new global climate agreement by 2015, to take effect from 2020, and also to find ways to raise global ambition to act on climate change before 2020. The African Group, expressed hope for work under the ADP to provide an opportunity for a fair, multilateral, rules-based system in the context and principles of the Convention. The Group further expressed disappointment that some parties have “pushed back” on assurances given in Durban with regard to the second commitment period under the Protocol, and also that the comparability assurance from developed countries had not been realized. The Group called for an increase in the level of ambition on all fronts, including through the scale-up of finance, technology transfer, and focused capacity building towards developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.
- (ii) On the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol, the precise length (5 or 8 years) and other related issues will be determined by a decision of the Doha Conference. A majority of developing country Parties, including, the African Group of Negotiators, AOSIS, LDCs, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, and Central America Integration System (SICA) supported a five-year commitment period in order to avoid locking in low levels of ambition, consider new scientific results/recommendations of the IPCC and the need for clear rules to ensure environmental integrity. Whilst on the other side developed country Parties supported an eight year commitment period, with a mid-term review to raise the level of ambition. Parties diverged on the extent to which Surplus Assigned Amount Units, Certified Emissions Reductions, and Emissions Reductions units could be carried-over to the second commitment period. The legal nature of the second commitment period remains unresolved with some parties suggested provisional application of the amendments of the Protocol pending formal ratifications in order to avoid gaps. It was observed that there was a slight movement towards converting reduction pledges to economy wide reduction targets by developed country Parties and discussions on this issue will be taken up in the Bangkok climate change talks before adoption in Doha.
- (iii) On the Green Climate Fund (GCF), The Durban Conference adopted a decision to operationalize the Green Climate Change Fund as

established by decision 1/CP.16 and also called upon Parties to bid for the hosting of the Secretariat of the fund, in which a decision will be taken at COP 18. At the close of the bid, Namibia is the only African country out of the six countries that have expressed interest in hosting the Green Climate Fund. Others are: Germany, Poland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and Mexico. The fund is to be run under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the purpose of making a significant and ambitious contribution to the global efforts towards attaining the goals set by the international community to combat climate change. The GCF will promote a model towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In addition, the Fund will provide simplified and improved access to climate change funding to developing countries, including direct access, basing its activities on a country-driven approach. Parties expressed a first Board meeting to take place at end June/beginning July 2012, which would allow for the Fund to become operational in 2013. However up to now, the meeting is yet to take place.

- (iv) On Long-Term Finance, the Durban Conference launched a work programme and as 2012 marks the end of the 30 billion USD of fast-start finance, at the Bonn session some Parties (mainly developing countries) identified issues of finance that require additional work: mid-term mobilization target (between 2013 - 2020), sources, relationship between the COP and the Green Climate Fund, and capitalization of the Green Climate Fund. However, these were not agreed upon by others.
- (v) On the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (LCA), Parties diverged on the relative importance and elements of context in the determination of the global goal for emissions reductions by 2050 and the timeframe for peaking. The African Group however, urged the AWG-LCA to give full consideration to adaptation, finance, response measures, and technology transfer and shared vision. On adaptation, they highlighted the need to scale up financial and technology support, and to include NAPs for both LDCs and vulnerable developing countries.
- (vi) On the Climate Technology Centre, the conference confirmed the ranking of three shortlisted hosts (United Nations Environment Programme; the Global Environment Facility; and Det Norske Veritas AS (Norway)) for the Climate Technology Centre (CTC), with a UNEP-led consortium leading. The Climate Technology Centre, along with its associated Network, is the implementing arm of the Technology Mechanism established by the Cancun Agreements in 2010. The CTC is designed to stimulate technology cooperation and transfer in support of developing country action to curb greenhouse gases and adapt their economies to the inevitable effects of climate change. This means that the UN Climate Change Secretariat can start work immediately to help establish the CTC.

D. Conclusion

8. The International Energy Agency (IEA) warned in May 2012 that the door to avoiding a maximum 2 degrees Celsius global average temperature rise is about to close. The IEA noted that greenhouse gas emissions have reached a record high and would need to peak no later than 2017 for the world to have half a chance of staying below the 2 degrees Celsius rise. In this regard the review of the long-term temperature goal agreed at the Cancun Conference is very important for Africa in ensuring that the global goal of temperature risk does not expose Africa to unacceptable risks. This calls for Parties to take up more ambitious targets to salvage the vulnerable people from the adverse impact of climate change. African countries and institutions should enhance their efforts to ensure an agreement on assessment of the scale of mitigation ambition gap using one set of Common Accounting Rules and increase pre-2020 ambition in line with science and gap assessment.

9. On the bid of hosting the Global Climate Fund, serious consideration must be given to support its location in Africa where the impacts of climate change will be felt most acutely and thereby support Namibia's bid to host the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund.

10. Africa should play an enhanced role at the Doha conference and through other appropriate platforms to aid quick consensus building on sources of finance. In this regard, negotiations should draw insights from the report by the High Level Panel that was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Fund should also be adequately capitalized. Representatives of Africa and LDCs on the Board should play a critical role in ensuring that the policies and arrangements, necessary for the Fund to start delivering on its principal functions, namely, mobilizing and allocating financial resources, are adopted as quickly as possible.

2012-07-16

Report of H.E. MR. Meles Zenawi,
Prime Minister of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and
Coordinator of the Committee of
African Heads of State and
Government on Climate Change
(CAHOSCC) on Africa's Preparation
for the Climate Change Negotiations at
the 18TH Conference of Parties of the
UN Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC) (COP 18)

African Union

DCMP