PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

REPORT FOR THE PRE-CCDA VI AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP
UNCC, ADDIS ABABA-ETHIOPIA
17th OCTOBER, 2016
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<td>ACPC</td>
<td>African Climate Policy Centre</td>
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<td>CB</td>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
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<td>Consortium for Climate Change – Ethiopia</td>
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<td>CCDA</td>
<td>Climate Change and Development in Africa</td>
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<td>ClimDev-Africa</td>
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<td>COP 22</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
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<td>SIDS</td>
<td>Small Island Developing States</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

PACJA in collaboration with organized under the auspices of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and Consortium for Climate Change –Ethiopia organized a ‘Pre-CCDA VI African Civil Society Consultative’ workshop held at UNCC, CR5, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 16th and 18th October, 2016. The workshop brought 43 CSOs representative from 26 African countries. The workshop was graced by Yonas Gebru, Board Chairperson, Consortium for Climate Change –Ethiopia on behalf of the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia.

The workshop provided an opportunity for African civil society and stakeholders to join other actors from Africa in broad–based conversations aimed at understanding implications of the Paris agreement and discussing modalities of implementation of the agreement.

Specifically, the workshop aimed at:

- Examine the implications of the Paris Agreement for Africa’s future economic growth and sustainable development agenda;
- Deepen an understanding of the nuances in the decisions of COP21, particularly with regard to the means of implementation (capacity, finance and technology transfer), as well as the domestication of the Agreement in Africa in alignment with the national development priorities of African countries.
- Providing a contextual analysis of what was at stake for Africa prior to COP21 and what the Paris Agreement offers;
- Discussing modalities of implementation of the agreement in order to provide a strategic orientation for African countries in moving forward with the implementation of the Agreement; and
- Developing an African CSOs position to COP 22 to be held Marrakesh, Morocco.
**2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**

**2.1 Opening Remarks and Introduction**

The workshop Moderator, Atayi Babs (PAMACC/CSDEVNET) welcomed all the participants to the workshop and lead the process of participant introductions. The moderator then welcomed Yonas Gebru (Board Chairperson, Consortium for Climate Change –Ethiopia); Mithika Mwenda (PACJA Secretary General); James Murombedzi, (Officer in Charge, ACPC) to give their welcome remarks.

**2.1.1 Welcome Remarks – By Yonas Gebru, CCC-E**

Yonas Gebru started his remarks by thanking the participants for honoring the invitation. He apologized for the absence of the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia who was supposed to provide a key note address during the opening ceremony of the workshop. He indicated that the main objective of workshop was to understand implications of the Paris agreement and discuss modalities of implementation of the agreement. He informed the meeting that 79 parties have ratified the Paris agreement and hence will enter into force on November 4, 2016. This agreement therefore is the quickest ratified treaty in history. He indicated that PACJA played a huge role in putting together this agreement. Ratification does not mean end of negotiation. He asserted that Parties now needs to focus on implementation of the agreement although some issues still need to be looked at.

He briefly talked about the composition of the CCC-E where he indicated that the consortium has over 40 members. He mentioned that CCC-E has worked on a position for COP 22 which will be submitted to the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia as a contribution to the national position.

He acknowledged PACJA in bringing African CSOs together and ensuring their involvement in defining African positions to COP 22 and adds their voices in climate change discourse at regional and global level.

**2.1.2 Welcome Remarks - By Mithika Mwenda, Secretary General, PACJA**

In his opening remarks, he started by stressing the need for the gathering where he mentioned that stakeholders converged to air their views on what was included on the agenda. He informed the meeting that stakeholders have been meeting in Africa for the last 6 years to interrogate imaging issues in previous CCDAs. He mentioned that the CCDA platform is a very innovative way of dialogue among stakeholder on climate change and development issues in Africa since it brings together CSOs, Scientists and Government officials in Africa. The secretary general further indicated that Pre-CCDA event is a major milestone for PACJA since it was initiated by PACJA and now it has turned out to be an annual event.
Mithika also said that the Paris Agreement is another milestone for PACJA since the network was over the past years actively engaged in negotiation processes at Africa and global levels. He reiterated that ratification of the agreement is now beyond 50% hence it will be entering into force on November 4th, 2016. He further stated that the meeting to the Montreal Protocol that he attended in Kigali in October was all about climate mitigation and less about HFCs.

Mr. Mwenda indicated in his remarks that the theme of the gathering was “Paris Agreement; what is next for Africa”. In this regard, he further indicated that the meeting will try to answer this question. He posed a question on whether there is now need to end the discourses on climate change after clinching the Paris Agreement. He added that it will be good to examine what the Paris agreement mean for Africa and therefore out it in line with the vision 2030 and 2063.

In his narrative, the secretary general indicated that the meeting was meant also to solidify CSOs position for the CCDA VI, develop key messages for the main sessions of the CCDA VI, and to provide recommendations and strategies for implementation of Paris agreement. He noted that there is now a huge and strong youth constituencies through PACJA support. The further noted that media constituency is also important and indicated that journalists have been consolidated across Africa not only to report but also to take the climate change discourses further. He finally urged participants to meaningfully contribute to the discussions during the meeting.

2.1.3 Welcome Remarks – By James Murombedzi, Officer in Charge, UNECA/ACPC; African Climate Policy Centre

James Murombedzi was delighted to welcome participants to the workshop. In his remarks he mentioned that 2016 is an eventful year on climate change calendar since the Paris Agreement which was signed in April, 2016, got ratified by over 50% of the countries by October, 2016 and will come into force on 4th November, 2016. He mentioned that this was a record time of ratification of an international agreement. He indicated that this represents the urgency of the need to deal with climate change. However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in ratification of the agreement in Africa where only 15 African countries were reported to have ratified by second week of October, 2016 and he said that over 35 countries in Africa have not ratified the Agreement. However, he indicated that ratification process is taking longer in Africa due to many reasons. The CCDA VI meeting therefore can serve also to inform the African countries who have not ratified to further understand the implications.

The Officer in Charge, informed the gathering that Africa climate talks in Dar es salaam in October, 2015 and CCDA V reflected on article 2 of the Kyoto protocol. He then said that CCDA VI will reflect on the progress made on the objective set in the 2015 meetings by focusing on questions such as; to what extent is Africa ready to implement Paris agreement? To what extent is the Paris agreement reflects Africa’s perspectives/inputs?

He noted that Paris agreement is short, only 12 pages such that a lot of issues were pushed to nuances which needs further reflections. The CCDA gathering will be used to give more inputs to developing Africa’s perspectives in global climate change narratives. The meeting will strengthen
further partnerships in African CSOs and will be a key element for discussing further the Paris agreement. He re-affirmed the ACPC support to such important meetings.

2.2 THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

2.2.1 Presentations on the Overview of Paris Agreement versus African CSO Demands – Presented by Mithika Mwenda, Secretary General, PACJA

The focus of the presentation was two-fold; to provide an overview of the Paris Agreement and highlight whether key African demands during the COP 21 negotiations were considered in the agreement. The presenter based the analysis in his discussion on the following questions;

- After all the mobilization and intense lobbying, did Paris deliver an outcome responsive to realities and aspirations of African people?
- How were the African demands affirmed in the ultimate Agreement after years of mobilization, consultations and lobbying?
- How were the demands of various interest groups, including indigenous peoples, met?
- Who were the winners and Losers in the “battle of Paris”?

The presentation highlighted that a global agreement was adopted by the community of Nations in Paris, France, during UNFCCC-COP 21, whose overarching goal is to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to scientifically acceptable levels. The presentation noted that the agreement was a product of intense negotiations spanning 6 years under various tracks and will become legally binding if joined by at least 55 countries. It was indicated in the presentation that countries will adopt the Agreement within their legal systems through ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

On the other hand, the presentation indicated that the African demands were meant to deliver justice for impacted people in order to enhance the support to adaptation in a new climate regime, ensure that there would be a separate mechanism to compensate for any loss and damage that goes beyond people’s ability to adapt and make a firm commitment to secure livelihoods through a Just Transition. In addition, the presenter indicated that the demands focused on transformational action that will ensure that renewable and efficient solutions are emphasized rather than false solutions that fail to produce the results and the required protection, such as carbon markets in land and soil and dangerous geo-engineering interventions.

The discussion in the presentation focused on four key demands and these included:

Demand 1: Global warming must be limited to 1.5 degrees celsius this century. This demand specified that there is need for developed countries to cut emissions dramatically and that developing countries must pursue a low-carbon sustainable development pathway. Making reference
to the provisions under article 2 of the Paris agreement, it was noted in the presentation that nothing in the agreement promises to limit to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century; but it is an aspiration. The presenter observed that achieving the goal of 1.5°C this century means halting the practice of burning fossil fuels by 2030. It was further observed in the presentation that while there is that aspiration, it would have been better to have concrete measures to reach this goal bearing in mind that this is the first time we have this collective goal. According to the presentation, this represents a win for the people of Africa, developing nations and those of Island nations who petitioned, rallied and pushed for its inclusion in the text. It was also indicated in the presentation that this is also a sign that climate science is beginning to take root at the highest level of global politics.

**Demand 2: adaptation is crucial to protecting and promoting development gains, especially in Africa.** This demand specified that there is need for a globally agreed goal on adaptation, adequate finance for adaptation, adequate information sharing and implementation of National Adaptation Plans. Making reference to the provisions under Article 7 of the Agreement, the presenter observed that the Agreement is voluntary - there is no legal or monetary requirement based on each individual nation’s contribution to climate change; it is open to interpretation, giving nations the opportunity to change goal-posts based on their preferences, and that adequate finance for adaptation is crucial to success. It was noted that therefore that Article 9.1 requires that parties provide “financial resources to assist developing country parties with respect to mitigation and adaptation.”

**Demand 3: climate financing; the green climate fund must be sufficiently resourced.** This demand specified that there was need for a sufficient capitalisation of the GCF as soon as possible, with fulfilment of outstanding pledges; provision of a minimum of USD 100 billion a year for climate action by 2020; and ensure the GCF funds only supports sustainable projects and protects human rights. Making reference to the provisions in Article 6 of the Agreement’s, the presenter noted that the language is weaker than the Convention. The presentations also noted that Article 4 fails to include reference to full and incremental costs to achieving Article 2, while at the same time lacking any burden-sharing mechanism among developed countries. It was observed that the Paris Agreement only commits to ‘mobilizing’ $100 billion per year by 2020, to cover not just emission cuts but also adaptation. This is far short of the support required, and there is no firm commitment to increase this figure, merely an aspiration to review it by 2025. The presenter further observed that the definition of ‘mobilize’ is purposefully broad, to include loans, private finance, grants with strings attached, and the reallocation of aid budgets. It was noted in the presentation that there has even been talk of calling the money sent home by migrants working in richer countries a form of climate finance, and counting it towards the total ‘mobilized’ by those rich countries.

**Demand 4: Addressing gender issues is a key part of tackling climate change and putting African countries on the path to sustainable development.** This demand specified that there was need for implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, Implementation of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Gender Equality Action Plan, and need for a clearly fixed timelines for achieving gender-responsive climate policy. It was noted in the presentation that the
language in the final document watered down. It was further noted that while there is no overarching article on gender, there is reference to special and vulnerable groups, for instance Article 7.5. The presentation further indicated that women play an essential role in caring for the environment and must be empowered to protect their livelihoods, communities, and nature. Noting that gender has been at the centre of previous COP discussions, the presenter believed that the inclusion of this paragraph in the Agreement is an opportunity to build on the implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and to ensure that gender continues to be important in climate change policy.

2.2.1.2 Expert Presentation: NDC’s ambition in the Paris Agreement – Presented by Johnson Nkem, ACPC

The presentation started with providing a present situation in terms of ratification of the Paris Agreement. The presentation indicated that the target for ratification has been achieved: more than 55 countries accounting for 55% of global emissions have ratified the agreement. However, only 15 African countries have ratified. The presentation further indicated that the Paris Agreement will enter into force on 4th November 2016. He therefore highlighted the question: what next for African countries yet to ratify the agreement?

The presenter mentioned that INDC are the proxy of the agreement meaning that they constitute the main pillar of the Paris Agreement. He stated that INDC represent a ‘bottom up approach’ that has universalised global emissions reduction. These successfully replaced the failed ‘top down approach’ of Annex I Countries commitments that have been repeatedly disregarded without penalty. The presenter indicated that the global temperature goal of 2°C hinges on the INDCs. Unfortunately, it does not embody the global adaptation goal.

The presentation also focused on the key findings of analysis of African INDCs. The following were presented as outcomes of the analysis:

- Most African INDCs are VAGUE in their mitigation ambitions and adaptation aspirations
- Most countries failed to provide COST estimates for achieving their adaptation and mitigation goals
- Others failed to identify SOURCES of funding (conditional/unconditional/private/public) for both mitigation and adaptation
- Some of the African countries pledged emission reduction commitments despite not having UP TO DATE National GHGs emissions records/inventories
- Others pledged mitigation commitments that EXCEED their current level of emissions
- There is INCOHERENCE between some of the INDCs and National development plans and Vision.
The presenter suggested that the INDCs require revision especially before ratifying the agreement or before the agreement enters into force. It was mentioned during the presentation that the rationale for revising the INDC is in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 22 which states that: “If a Party has communicated an intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) prior to joining the Agreement, then its INDC shall be considered the Party’s first NDC under the Agreement UNLESS that Party decides otherwise. A Party has the OPPORTUNITY to ENHANCE its INDC by communicating a more ambitious NDC, if it so desires, BEFORE or when submitting its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession”. In an attempt to explain further the rationale for revising the INDCs, the presenter further referred to Article 4, Section 11 of the Paris Agreement states: “A Party may at any time adjust its existing nationally determined contribution with a view to enhance its level of ambition, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement”.

The presenter provided six ways of revising the INDCs and these included:

- Revise to reflect short & long term National development plans and priorities
- Provide clear and concise action or activities for both mitigation and adaptation for every sector listed in the INDCs
- Where possible, provide a rough estimate of the amount of funding required to implement the actions listed in the INDCs. inflation and other anticipated future costs needs to be factored in
- Where costing is imprudent, avoid providing any estimate to elude under costing.
- Highlight clearly the expected sources of finance (unconditional /conditional /public/private).
- Avoid over-pledging domestic resources

The presenter mentioned that the rationale for considering the above Actions is based on Article 4, Paragraph 8 of the Paris Agreement which states: “In communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.”

Based on the analysis of the INDC, the presenter observed that for meaningful engagement in implementation of the Paris agreement, countries would require:

- Concrete actions and activities in the form of projects/programme and development will follow suit during which there will be elaboration of costs, baselines, MRV+ etc. to facilitate clarity, and transparency etc. as required
- Regional approach to NDC by Africa e.g. lessons from the case of EU
Alignment with national development plans, regional and global development goals (Agenda 2063 & SDGs)

The presentation went further to provide reference to the FAO pillars of Food Security as he tried to give a picture of the percentage of actions in the INDCs aimed at addressing food security. It was clear from the outcome of the analysis that African INDC actions are not tailored to reform agricultural sector in Africa. This was evident from the presentation since about 133 actions (48.7%) are aimed at enhancing food availability; 21 actions (7.7%) are geared towards enhancing food access; 7 actions (2.6%) are aimed at enhancing utilization and 138 actions (50.5%) are aimed at ensuring food stability.

2.2.1.3 Means of implementations and opportunities under Paris climate agreement – Presented by Azeb Girmai

Azeb Girmai made a presentation on the means of implementation and opportunities under the Paris Agreement. She stated in her presentation that finance, technology and capacity building provisions in the Convention are further strengthened in the PA. In her explanation she quoted Ravi Shankar Prasad, head of the Indian delegation who stated that “We are hopeful that the new strengthened technology mechanism will be able to provide better means of undertaking climate action,” However, she wondered on what is new in the Paris Agreement that gives hope for the Means of Implementation. She indicated that Marrakech is said to be the implementation CoP. However she stressed that for developing countries provision of effective means of implementation is key. She further stressed that the years of fight to secure quality and quantity of climate finance does not match what was yielded under the PA. She stated in the presentation that Africans can only claim window of opportunities but no clear provision of new, additional, adequate, predictable or sustainable climate finance. She continued to state the following opportunities from the PA:

- Decision Paragraph 47: the GCF to expedite support for (vulnerable) LDCs (about 37 of them in Africa) for national adaptation plans etc.

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) – is the current main pot for Finance. $10.2 Billion was pledged; 6.8Billion in cash (out of the $100Billion agreed to be mobilized by 2025). However, she mentioned that US$4 trillion was estimated to implement INDCs in developing countries – containing M&A) out of which the US has paid only $500 m of its $3Billion. She continued to state that so far, $168m worth of programs accepted versus aspiration of $2.56B/year

- Funding through Accredited Entities; approved by Nationally Designated Authorities. However she mentioned that these still has concerns related to access.

- 50:50 to mitigation and adaptation. Thus 50% of adaptation for LDCs, SIDS and Africa

- Areas of funding include
  - Funding for Readiness & CB support for (up to $1m/country)
• Resilience of livelihood, Food, Water, Health, Energy; Low emission Transport; Cities ; Agriculture with agro ecology; Sustainable Land use management; Sustainable forest management; Resilience of Ecosystem etc.

• Under Article 2.1(c) of the agreement: as the purpose of the agreement there is reference to “making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development” which is a good bases and opportunity to start a new discussion in Marrakech.

• Article 9 sub-paragraph 1 reference to the existing obligation of developed countries under the convention – gives way to push for obligation of provision of finance

• Article 9 sub-paragraph 4 financial resources priorities for those that are particularly vulnerable e.g. LDCs and SIDS considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation

• The Financial mechanism of the convention including its operating entities (GCF & GEF) taken to serve the PA and ensure efficient access to financial resource through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing counties. She stated that this gives clear instructions which helps but for existing finance facilities.

• Paragraph 46 under the decision: requests the Adaptation committee (KP) & Least Developed countries expert group in collaboration with the standing committee on Finance and other relevant institution (a) to take necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developed countries; (b) review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14 (c). Thus Finance alone cannot do without appropriate technology and capacity building to implement climate action hence a great opportunity to African countries.

• Technology development and transfer is central to the challenge of preventing dangerous climate change and adaptation/resilience to the effects of climate change

• The Paris agreement has been said to have taken the technology element further beyond renewable energy and energy efficiency. These are the:

  - Establishment of a technology framework (proposed by the African group) to guide the work of the climate convention’s existing technology mechanism in promoting and facilitating enhanced action on technology development and transfer.

  - Creation of a link between the technology mechanism and the Financial Mechanism for collaborative approaches to research and development and facilitating access to technology in particular for early stages of the technology cycle in developing countries
link to GCF. However, she expressed concerns over situations where there will be no adequate or specifically earmarked finance in terms of the point reiterating the existing provision.

Support, including financial support, shall be provided to developing countries for the implementation of this article, particularly to address barriers related to IPRs.

On capacity, the presenter stressed that capacity building in the effort to implement climate action in developing countries is critical, but mostly because countries are at different stages of development and have different capabilities, gaps and needs that need to be assessed. Thus the PA has in its agreement:

- Capacity building for LDCs and SIDS to take effective climate change action: to facilitate technology development; dissemination and deployment, access of Climate Finance; and transparency. However, she pointed out that this is merely a recognition of the need.

- Establishment of a “Paris committee on capacity-building” to address assessment to implement CB in developing counties; further enhance CB efforts including coherence & coordination in CB activities under the convention. However, she mentioned that this committee is not to implement climate actions.

She stated in her presentation, however, that negotiations in the climate regime have never been short of creating institutions, mechanisms, frameworks and committees but tackling the heart of the matter. She stressed that the focus on “soft issues”, that is, formation of institutions and committees versus “Hard issues” reduction of emission, provision of finance, technology is our country global problem during negotiations.

Plenary; questions and answers

Questions from Cameroon participant

- In Paris there were demonstrations, no to REDD+ projects in Africa. How are will going to compromise the situation when thousands are losing land?
- Adaptation in Africa, Governments were enthusiastic about ratifying the PA. What can CSOs do not to be mere spectators?

Questions from Zimbabwe Participant

- One political candidate says climate change is a hoax, what happens when he wins? any implication to the Paris agreement?

Questions from the Tanzania participant

- Need for clarity on the number of countries that have ratified the Paris agreement?
• What is the hope from PA when it comes to REDD? It seems REDD+ has just been fixed in the PA without clearly mechanisms

• How do we harmonize the REDD+ strategies and what is being provided for in the INDCs?

Questions from the moderator, Atayi Babs, Moderator

• What role did ACPC play in assisting African countries in preparation of the INDCs before INDCs were submitted? What role will be played in revising INDCS?

• GCF remain the viable option for now, do you think GCF can meet aspirations of Africans in meeting various goals?

• Give us an example of a REDD+ success story in the world?

• To what extent is the need for wood by Chinese people and preservation of forests going to be compatible in Ethiopia?

Responses

Johnson Nkem, ACPC

• Number of ratification changes every day. It’s a national decision to ratify the agreement and revision of the INDC is not a major thing to be done.

• Role of ACPC in INDC: countries have been assisted technically and financially (limited) in preparation of INDCs. A meeting was set up for African group of negotiators to assist in developing the outline of the INDCs.

• What role will be played in revision of INDCs: providing an analysis of the INDCs. Will further provide technical assistance to countries during revision of the INDCs.

• Is incoherence of INDC unique to Africa?: No, element of vagueness is not unique for Africa. EU made there INDCs deliberately vague, and it is not a crime. Countries defined no go zones in their INDCS.

• Role of CSOs; there is space for more negotiations from CSOs

• PA is nothing anyway. GCF, the choices are whether to have nothing or something. GCF is only what we have hence we just need to utilize it. GCF is not accessible and not transparent, but that is all we have.

REDD+ issues
• REDD+ programme has issues as other programmes. Yes, communities could be displaced. However, there is need to different project based REDD+ interventions and national REDD+ programmes. In national REDD+, displacement is not encouraged. Safeguards therefore guide displacement in case that may be needed.

• Longer contracts, that's the nature of REDD+ programmes and that is a risk. These contracts may contradict countries long term plans, hence a risk that needs to be properly managed.

• There is need to put programmes in the national development plans.

• REDD+ programmes is an additional incentive to forest managing/dependant communities.

• International support on REDD+ programmes is minimal. There is limited capacity in absorbing available finance for REDD+.

• No country has officially graduated from readiness to implementation at the moment. Otherwise there are just early movers such as Mexico.

Jennifer

• REDD+ needs to be looked in the context of carbon off-sets and food security
• How do you maintain the control and manage risks?
• What opportunities does this give small scale farmers?
• How does this fit in the issue of economic justice?

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Panel Discussion

Ms. Tracey Sony – National Coordinator – Botswana Climate Change Network

Tracy Sony the representative of the Botswana Climate Change Network spoke highly concerning providing equal opportunity for both women and men in the implementation of the Paris Agreement at national and local level. She stressed the need to mainstream the component of Gender and Climate Change in all levels of planning, programming and project execution. Tracy Sony a member of PACJA emphasized more for the need by PACJA and there cooperating partners to help for the involvement of women in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels.
Mr. Abel Musumali – Zambia Task Force Member – ClimDev Youth Climate Change Platform

A youth representative Mr. Abel Musumali implored African Youths present at the meeting to shift from just attending meetings and workshops to begin aligning themselves to global, regional and national initiatives and programmes that are aimed at upscaling the fight against climate change at various aspects of engagement. He encouraged the youths to take advantage of existing platforms, instruments and protocols such as the Paris Agreement and nationally Determined Contributions that have been developed to curb climate change impacts at national level. He stated that youths should begin to position themselves strategically in order to be counted and to play a critical role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Mr. Musumali pointed out that fund baskets on climate change are now available and that youths should be strategic in their approach because the funds are highly competitive and not easy to acquire. He further encouraged African youths to pay more attention to the agriculture and energy sector due to negative impacts these sectors have had due to the adverse effects of climate change. He stated that the two sectors has the highest levels to create jobs and employment for the youths as they fight to reduce the impacts of climate change through their resilient building strategies and programmes.

Mr. Solomon Zewdie

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

National REDD+ Secretariat

Mr. Solomon Zewdie from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change of Ethiopia gave his presentation on REDD+ and the Paris Agreement. He elaborated that the adoption of the Paris Agreement is largely considered as an agreement which creates for the first time a binding and progressive framework for all countries to prepare plans to address climate change.

Article 5 of the Paris Agreement is mainly dedicated to forests

An explicit call to developed and developing countries to conserve and enhance forests and other biological carbon reservoirs. Through cross-referencing, past decisions on REDD+ have become part of the Agreement. The Agreement also emphasizes the need to protect vulnerable ecosystems, and the need to ensure food security (Joint mitigation & Adaptation), as well as the Modality for financing REDD+ implementation.

His presentation further looked at the Implications of the decisions as listed below;

Implications of these decisions

- Integration of tropical forest conservation within a global climate regime and Political support for the existing internationally agreed framework
• Principles for accounting for emissions reductions ensure transparency and improvement over time for forests and other sectors

• Strengthens efforts on mitigation, finance, and international markets, three important elements for REDD+

Mr. Zewdie further outlined on the opportunities and challenges of the Paris Agreement as mentioned below

Opportunities

• Support to joint mitigation and adaptation approaches

• Encourages implementation activities

• Results-based payments as a possible modality of supporting REDD+

Challenge

• Adequate and predictable finance

• The Agreement fails to formulate an explicit vision for land-based mitigation and adaptation
3.0 AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT TO THE SIXTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CCDA VI)

The African Civil Society met under the auspices of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) during the Pre-CCDA VI African Civil Society Consultative Workshop held on 17th October, 2016 at United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa-Ethiopia. Objectives:

- 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

During the workshop, we deeply reflected on the Paris Agreement and its implication in the African transformation agenda as well as its ambition towards a fair and ecologically just response to climate change.

It is our conviction that the CCDA-VI held under the auspices of the CLIMDEV Programme provides a unique opportunity for us all – Governments, IGOs, civil society, media, - to truly reflect on our progress as a continent on climate change and related processes.

We applaud the spirit of collaboration among the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank and African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in the international climate change dialogue processes, which has not only made the African continent visible, but also the single most influential negotiating block in UNFCCC.

Ahead of the formal entry into force of the Paris Agreement, we wish to caution all stakeholders, and particularly African Governments, that policy frameworks will remain hollow proclamations and reference materials gathering dust in our respective shelves unless they are backed with requisite political will, sufficient resources and technical capacity.

On the Implementation of the Paris Agreement:

Although the Paris Agreement once again falls short of our expectations, its adoption remains a diplomatic and political milestone in the international climate change dialogue processes especially after the disastrous failure of COP-15 in Copenhagen.

We applaud various climate response initiatives in such as Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), Adaptation for African Agriculture (AAA) and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). However, we urge that such initiatives avoid needless duplication and maximise coordination within the existing frameworks in the continent.

Taking cognisance of the shortcomings in the INDCs preparatory processes, we urge African Governments to consider revising the gaps so far identified in their NDCs ahead of the coming into force of the Paris Agreement on 4th November 2016.

We further call our governments to:

- Compel developed countries to fulfil their commitments under and beyond the Agreement, importantly raising their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ambition and pre-2020 Commitments to achieve the long-term temperature goal.
• Put pressure on developed countries to set a collective quantified finance goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year beyond 2020;
• Effectively and proactively engage with the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) and ensure Africa needs and priorities, notably the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold, are fully addressed while underscoring the priority of Adaptation and the COP as the supreme decision making body of the UNFCCC;
• Translate the provisions of the Agreement and other AU resolutions into domestic laws, policies, structures and development strategies.
• We urge our Governments to ensure that all climate actions are gender responsive in line with the Decisions of the Lima Work Program on Gender and aspirations of the Paris Agreement.
• African youth specifically want our Governments and partners to direct climate finance to support research, capacity building, technological development and innovative youth-led projects on adaptation, mitigation and climate-resilient agriculture.

The Upcoming UNFCCC-COP 22 in Marrakesh Should:-
• Provide a roadmap on the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources from developed country Parties to developing countries to enable them meet their commitments in their NDCs as stated in Article 9 of the Paris Agreement.
• Establish a common and agreeable reporting and accounting framework for financial support to enhance transparency of actions and avoidance of double counting (Article 13 paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of the Paris Agreement).
• Enhance support to developing countries in terms of technology development and transfer which is key to achieving African countries’ commitments in their NDCs even as developed countries embark upon drastic domestic economic-wide emission reduction efforts (Article 10 paragraph 5 & 6 of the Paris Agreement).
• Provide the required capacity building support to assist developing country Parties to meet their NDCs mitigation and adaptation commitments in the Agreement (Article 11 of the Paris Agreement).
• Although Loss and Damage was anchored into the PA, the absence of key elements such who should pay for the damages caused by climate change is a major concern for us. We therefore call upon our governents to continue demanding for a L&D package which adequately address climate-inspired losses.

Done this 17th Day of October, 2016, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia