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Africa Pavilion Daily

This Summary Brief is intended for media representatives. Published by the Joint Communication Sub-committee (AU, AfDB and UNECA) in partnership with Dalberg, with financial support from AfDB. The Brief summarizes the daily discussion sessions taking place in the African Pavilion, capturing key discussion points, key implications, and key action items from selected sessions.

The Africa Pavilion, located within the precincts of the UNFCCC, is serving as a platform to have Africa's voice heard. To demonstrate Africa's ability to be part of the solution to the challenges of climate change on the continent, the Pavilion is hosting a full program of roundtables and events during the UN climate conference.

All the events organized in the Africa Pavilion are open to media representatives, who can ask questions to the panelists (interpretation English / French available).

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Climate Finance
Desert Room (13.20-15.20)

- The African Development Bank, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) hosted a roundtable discussion on Climate Finance. The roundtable discussion took place in the Desert Room in the African Pavilion.
- The panel was moderated by Mr. Daniel Makokear, CEO, Pamuzinda Productions
- The following panelists participated in the event:
  - Mr. Jean Ping, Chairman, African Union Commission
  - Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank
  - Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
  - H.E. Mr. Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Finance, Republic of South Africa
  - H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Congo

- Dr. Barbara Buchner, Climate Policy Initiative, co-author of the report, "Landscape of Climate Finance" (October 2011)
- Dr. Benito Mueller, Director, Oxford Climate Policy, University of Oxford.
- Professor Tiemoko Sangare, Minister of Environment and Sanitation, Republic of Mali

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:

- It was clearly stated that in order for Africa to advance, finance is greatly needed. Africa has land, water, wind and many more components that, if used together with sufficient finance, could lead to great advancement in sustainable development.
- It was emphasized during the session that Africa has so far not attracted much climate finance. One of the reasons for this is that Africa has very low greenhouse gas emissions and most existing instruments target carbon reductions more than low greenhouse gases growth trajectories.
- Emphasizing that we must work to ensure that future climate finance instruments are better suited to Africa, the panel called for the development of an African Green Fund which will be managed by an African institution and will address the specificities and needs of Africa. Dr. Donald Kaberuka of the AfDB stated that they are in a position to be that institution as they have the experience and the knowledge to manage the African Green Fund.
- Much importance was placed on the Green Climate Fund and the fact that it has yet to be filled with money. This led to H.E Jean Ping stating that partners in the Cancun agreement should respect the commitments they made. If we are to move towards a healthier planet, the Green Climate Fund must become operational.
- While the developing countries have asked that a substantial part of the funds come from public sources, the West has preferred to rename private investments, existing development funds and loans as their contributions.
- It was stated that the Economic recessions in Europe and the United States will prevent any progress on the Green Climate Fund.
- Also, it was stated that Africa needs more funds for adaptation than it does for mitigation.
- Dr. Benito Mueller believed that the climate finance regime in general, and the Green Climate Fund, in particular, will have to involve a fundamental devolution of decision making to National Funding Entities. He said that the most efficient scenario is not to house funds in donor agencies or multilateral funds, but in the recipient countries.
- A suggestion to explore the potential for providing climate finance from carbon-related charges on international aviation and maritime transport was made and well received by all panelists. This is just one of the innovative ways of mobilizing finance. Even though there are many successful experiences that we can learn from, it is strongly believed that Africa must develop innovative and transparent ways of mobilizing funds.
- H.E Pravin Gordhan noted the importance of attract funding instead of waiting for it. He noted that by doing what was possible now, it would demonstrate to the world that Africa is ready and this in turn will encourage others to invest. Mobilizing of funds needs

to be transparent which will help in the building of trust on both sides (donors and beneficiaries).

HIGH LEVEL MEETING: Climate Smart Agriculture – Africa: A Call to Action
Levubu Room, ICC (13.30-15.00)

- In the afternoon, the African Union, the Republic of South Africa, and the World Bank hosted a high level meeting on climate smart agriculture in the Levubu Room in the ICC.
- The high level meeting was arranged by the World Bank, the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of South Africa.
- Amongst many others, the panelists included:
    - Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa
    - Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and Former Secretary-General of the United Nations.
    - Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
    - Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia
    - Tina Joemat-Petterson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of South Africa

Key Takeaways from the Session
Tina Joemat-Petterson (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa)

- The ministers in Africa worked hard to agree on putting CSA (Climate Smart Agriculture) into the agenda of COP17.
- There is a need for collective ideas for tackling the problem of Climate Change in Africa and in the world, at large.
- Africa must invest in information technology to facilitate CSA. CSA will help to improve food security and build a more climate resilient agricultural sector.
- Farmers are the most important people in this agenda; they should understand CSA and embrace it.
- Policies favoring CSA should be in place and there is a need for building a common understanding among the stakeholders.
- CSA should be targeted to the ones who suffer most.

Kofi Annan (Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)

- Africa is badly affected by climate change but has huge potential to mitigate and adapt.
- Our present problems (e.g. political instability and financial crisis), must not be an excuse for not acting upon climate change.
- At the moment, Africa doesn’t grow enough food to support its population, some food is imported.

- Africa is currently far from getting the results out of the efforts given there is still a need for commitment, patience and determination.
- What was agreed upon in Copenhagen and Cancun must be taken seriously by Africa and implementation should start.
- Developed countries should by 2020, make available $100 billion for helping CSA in Africa. Climate resilient agricultural policies should be in place by that time.
- The potential is huge in Africa for growing food not only for the people, but for exports as well. However, this needs funds and an integrated approach (the involvement of scientists, economists, politicians, environmentalists etc.).
- Small farmers are at the core of this programme since they are the ones who are affected most.
- Leadership, resources and expertise are crucial in CSA.

Meles Zenawi (Ethiopian Prime Minister).

- 70% of the Africans are small scale farmers (with the exception of South Africa).
- Since there is so much dependence on agriculture by the majority of Africans, it becomes apparent that if one needs to fight poverty, it is through agriculture.
- If you need equitable growth, agriculture is the answer as it involves communities at the lower levels of the economic hierarchy.
- There is a threat that is being posed on agriculture by climate change - this causes food insecurity.
- There is a need for a collaborative effort to fight these problems. Water and soil are important in agricultural productivity; CSA must pay particular attention to these resources.
- Since soil gets degraded, rehabilitation and reforestation are the approaches that need to be adopted to improve the state of the soil and water, thus improve the state of agriculture.
- Climate Resilient Agriculture shouldn't be seen as different from CSA.

Jean Ping (Chairperson of the AU Commission)

- Agriculture is key for survival.
- We need to think ahead and prevent future climate change impact.
- Africa has drought and famine. It's possible to have one of the two without the presence of the other. For example Ethiopia had drought but not famine. African countries should learn from that because it shows good management of natural resources even in times of unfavorable climatic conditions.
- There should also be attention on desertification in the next COP and at Rio+20
- Reforestation must be encouraged.
- Famine can be eradicated with effective management of water resources.
- Population increase is posing challenges in the agricultural sector and there is a need to intensify agriculture in order to cope with this pressure.
- CSA needs to be included in national policies.
- Early warning systems for weather prediction should also receive investment attention.

- Capacity building is also a point that needs focus and countries need to work together.

Jacob Zuma (President of the Republic of South Africa)

- The population of the world is expected to increase by 2050.
- This has some implications and agriculture will be the most pressurized sector for supporting this population growth.
- Agricultural production must increase by 70% in order to support the increased population.
- But climate change is aiming at reducing this productivity by 10-20%, so this is the challenge the world, and Africa in particular, is faced with.
- For this reason, farmers should be at the center of climate change negotiations on agriculture.
- CSA is helping in providing strategies for sustainable agricultural development.
- There should be a change in current agricultural technologies as they have proven to be unfriendly to the environment.
- Climate change, food security and poverty are interlinked. By adopting CSA, you would be covering many sector in an effort aimed at one sector.
- There is a need for researchers to dig into this matter and come up with findings which can be useful in building CSA.
- Policy and market incentives improve farming productivity by attracting investors.
- Organic agriculture should get more preference over the inorganic kind of agriculture which decreases soil productivity.
- CSA promotes good management of water and soil.
- COP 17 presents an opportunity to push forward the agricultural agenda.
- CSA is appealing because of its benefits to the small holder farmer.
- Governments must make sure that small holders are the number one priority for CSA projects.
- Leaders should forget their interests and start prioritizing the interests of the majority who are the poor.

Gender and Climate Smart Agriculture
Desert Room (9.00-11.00)

- In the morning, people gathered in the Desert Room to participate in a session on gender and climate smart agriculture. At the session, case studies and community level experiences were shared.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- It is known that the negative effects of climate change are and will be affecting Africa the most owing, to its large economic dependence on agriculture. Further, it is the women and children who are the worst affected. In the rural areas of most African countries, agriculture contributes 60-70% of the employment and 20% to the GDP. From this, women contribute 80% of this workforce. These statistics clearly indicate the importance of agriculture, and more specifically, the role of women in agriculture, in Africa. This calls for a desperate need to focus on these stakeholders and put our efforts into empowering women and ultimately, improve the socioeconomic situation in Africa. The first step is to mainstream gender in all the programmes that are being developed.

- Ms. Tadesse Zenebu (Minister, Ethipoia Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs) highlighted the successes being experienced in Ethiopia, specifically the joint venture between the Ethiopian government and WFP, through the MERET programme.
- Ms. Priscilla Akchapa (WEP) also highlighted experiences taking place in Nigeria and specifically, the implementation of these experiences at the grassroot level.
- Adding to the presentations on the good experiences being implemented in Africa, Ms. Guta Atsede presented on the Women Fuel Carriers (WFC) project currently implemented in Ethiopia. The first component of the project intends to maximize WFC revenues, improve working conditions, and introduce environmentally sustainable operational principles and practices to their activities. It also aims to increase the overall operational and economic efficiency of their fuel wood trading practices. A second component will support the WFC in identifying and establishing other economically viable and sustainable activities to diversify and increase their incomes and economic prospects. Grants will serve as the initial working capital to cover operating expenses for the new economic activities.
- ACTWID (Association for Creative Teaching for rural Women and youth in Development) highlighted some of the successes as well as the challenges experienced in Cameroon. Implementation has only been in 5 of the selected 24 communities owing to inadequate funding.
- COMESA gave a brief update on what they are doing regarding gender in climate smart agriculture. They underscored the importance of keeping a gender balance noting that their projects do not exclude men.
- NEPAD is moving towards the development of a Gender and Climate Smart Agriculture programme and feels that Africa is on the right path in the liberation of women.

Congo Basin Forest Fund: Making REDD+ a Reality in Congo Basin Countries
Rainforest Room (10.00-13.00)

- At 10am in the morning, people assembled in the Rainforest Room for a session on the Congo Basin Forest Fund. The session addressed the issue of deforestation and forest degradation in Central Africa.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) was launched in June 2008 as a dual-funded project by Norway and the United Kingdom and hosted by the African Development Bank. The project is involved in the 10 Central African countries with REDD+ (Reduction of Emissions, Deforestation and Degradation) policy implementation.

- Statistics show that the current socio-economic factors, driving many of these African countries, are insufficient and damaging to the sustainability of the Congo Basin.
- The role of the Fund is to address climate change across the Congo Basin (primarily by reducing deforestation, forest degradation and poverty) by using a dual approach:
    - From the bottom up, the Congo Basin Forest Fund targets NGO's to assist local communities to improve their lives via sustainable forest management.
    - From the top down, the Congo Basin Forest Fund targets government projects to design REDD+ strategies and frameworks on a national level, in order to monitor and assess changes in greenhouse emissions from deforestation and degradation.
- Secondary objectives include land use planning; the creation of sustainable exploitation mechanisms for the natural rainforests; and stabilizing the agricultural sector and promoting local development.
- The programs, which occur in three phases, are designed to facilitate transfer of technical information and levels of civil and governmental infrastructure quickly and in a manner that is easily interpreted into useful information of the region.
- So far the Congo Basin Forest Fund has managed to secure a range of multi-national projects and funding, including 27 NGO projects in the amount of 26 Million Euro's and 13 government project in the amount of 52 Million Euro's.
- REDD+ projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo have subsisted for over a period of 10 years. They have the added benefit of having their techniques and policies practically tested on a national level for a considerable period of time – a factor that has allowed this process to be amended and improved considerably and tailored to individual country infrastructures and needs.
- A specific challenge that has been faced by the programs so far is that international NGO's have not worked under a system with tight monitoring and control procedures. This is problematic considering the program is largely reliant and gives great provision for its partners to regulate the pace of their programs. Thus, it has been strongly emphasized that such organizations have the requisite experience in dealing with projects of this nature and scale.
- Appropriate measures to combat such issues include
    - The adoption of a detailed operational manual to clarify procedures
    - More training
    - An institutional and operational review that has already been launched.
- Targets and activities include the provision of World Wildlife Fund Technical support; addressing the issue of depletion of social capital; technology transfer; improving enforcement mechanisms around climate change safeguards; and policies and improving self-governance.
- Furthermore, new international and African partners have joined together to sign the Declaration of Intention to further develop a new set of Reduction of Emissions, Deforestation and Degradation initiatives and projects, which will fast track financing of research and development of Congo Basin Forest Fund's goals.

Realizing the Potential: Making the Most of Climate Finance in Africa
Rainforest Room (15.00-16.30)

- In the afternoon, participants of the extensive African Pavilion climate change program gathered for a session on climate finance in Africa. The event was hosted by the African Development Bank.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- During the session, it was emphasized that despite improvements over the last few years, climate change and development in Africa needs to accelerate in order to attain the projected millennia goals.
- The OECD has launched green growth strategies in order to restructure the development process from a global organizational level.
- African countries are among the most climate-sensitive economies in the world and also the most drought prone.
- Despite this, only 14% of climate change financing goes to sub-Saharan countries (excluding South Africa).
- Issues with the current climate finance programs are as follows:
    - 2/3rds of financing that was received was used to address mitigation issues – an issue that is not nearly as urgent as climate adaptation of countries' infrastructures. Thus those that are most being affected by disasters and climate change are not receiving the resources.
    - The structural requirements of global and regional institutions are far too stringent and countries either do not have the resources to meet these requirements, or waste time by having to duplicate structures that they have on a national level.
    - Too much conditionality is placed on the allocating of financial aid, and international and regional authorities do not consult national governments in addressing this issue, thus redirecting aid to where it actually needs to go.
- The international, regional and national partners have been working on addressing these issues and should have comprehensive solutions arising out of the recent talks in South Korea.
- Among suggested strategies was:
    - The need to redirect and utilize national tax to support financing issues as oppose to relying on aid.
    - Focus needs to shift from aid to sustainability driven development and growth on both economic and infrastructural levels.
    - Using existing African infrastructure and financing systems, as many are capable to manage proposed funds.
    - Strengthening national accountability systems

- Further suggested strategies include the use of financial levying to aid project financing, private investing and the creation of an African Green Fund in order to simplify the application procedures for aid.

Climate Investment Funds: Investing in Renewable Energy for Development in Africa
River Room (9.00-11.00)

- At 9am, the Climate Investment Funds (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group) hosted a session on Climate Investment Funds and the option to invest in renewable energy.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- $9 billion has been made available by Climate Investment Funds (CIF) - specifically for low carbon energy production mechanisms.
- The success of CIFs lies on its allowance for developing countries to make their voices head.
- Regardless of the renewable energy potential in Africa, many communities still do not have access to electricity. Lack of means of exploiting this potential is the issue at hand.
- CIFs were established to help in situations like these where the potential is there but is not fully utilized.
- Countries like Kenya, with the potential geothermal energy output of 10 000MW are some of the examples of the potential which the CIF is trying to make use of.
- For development to occur; energy, infrastructure and private sector are all crucial.
- The current percentage of the population which is connected to the grid in Kenya is 23%. This has lots of implications when it comes to development.
- Among these options of renewable energy options, countries should go for the most environmentally friendly ones in order to promote sustainable use of resources.
- Scale-up Renewable Energy Programmes (SREP) has been effective in that it chooses the places which need urgent attention.
- In Mali, CIFs have helped in a project for the installation of Solar Hybrid Mini-grids.
    - The rural population has very little access to electricity and these hybrid mini-grids have helped in making electric energy available to the rural community.
    - There is also huge potential for solar energy in Mali as there is abundant sunshine.
    - The government of Mali has been at the driving seat of the programmes with help from the CIFs.
- Honduras faces similar challenges as Africa and they are willing to take the experience of Mali and put it in their country as it has a huge hydroelectric potential.
- Morocco, with its desert, has moved forward in taking advantage of the desert and initiating solar energy projects, this energy will also be exported to European countries

(e.g. Southern Spain). The AfDB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development together with the World Bank are funding the project.

- An agreement was signed today (07 December 2011) to grant a loan for the project.
- Countries, on their side, must make sure that the capacity is there and the environment is conducive for such funding.
- Countries must be clear in their plans, indicating clearly what their plans are and what the expectations are.

Towards a New Energy Strategy for Africa
River Room (11.30-13.00)

- Prior to lunch, the African Development Bank hosted a session on a new energy strategy for Africa.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- Africa is lagging behind in terms of providing energy access to its people. The challenge is to overcome this problem using low carbon emission development.
- This is where funding is needed.
- A SWOT analysis of the energy sector should inform policy making. This will help in creating policies with low carbon energy production at the core. Also, the AfDB will come in and make sure that there is leveraging of resources, regional trade and public-private partnerships in an effective manner.
- Public funding is not enough; it can only be used to make way for bigger funding.
- The AfDB needs to be selective and proactive when it comes to project funding.
    - Expansion of advisory services (by the AfDB) is also needed.
    - Co-operation within different departments is needed.
- Since technology has proven to be expensive, African countries should make use of the market forces (e.g. China is coming with affordable technology which then drives prices down around the world).
- The focus must also be paid to the transmission of the energy. Most of the time, the transmission networks are not properly developed in these countries.

Interview Requests

A wide array of senior officials from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa are attending the COP17/CMP7 discussions in Durban.
Interview requests can be sought from the communications officers listed below by mail or telephone.

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