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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).

AFRICA DAY – OPENING SESSION

African Pavilion (10-.10.30)

- On Thursday, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission (AU), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) celebrated **Africa Day** in the African Pavilion.
- Participants of Africa Day were welcomed by H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairman, Commissioner for the African Union.
- Afterwards, H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia gave the opening address.
- Following the opening session, Lord Nicholas Stern, Grantham Institute, gave a key note speech.

Key Takeaways from the opening session

- Africa has arisen as a leader and pioneer for the rest of the world regarding climate change. The region takes an active involvement in implementing appropriate policies

and action plans to combat climate changes - despite the fact that Africa is only responsible for 4% of global carbon emissions.

- It was emphasized throughout the high level discussion that the talks and actions taken moving forward from COP17 should reflect the legitimacy of COP17 and the conclusions it has reached. This being a natural follow-through from the statement made that the Durban talks need to develop upon the foundations set by the environmental talks in Cancun.
- The development from previous talks up to and including COP17, have indicated a rise in Africa being taken seriously by the rest of the world – something that was far less the case during talks in 2004. The new perception has resulted in a number of roundtables, conferences and discussions as to how Africa can contribute to addressing climate change via key thematic issues.
- Issues identified as needing attention by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, included:
 1. The need for new technology
 2. Protection of the Congo Basin, it being pivotal to Africa’s ecological survival
 3. Preservation of Lake Jud.
- As far as the international community is concerned, they are now paying great attention to Africa, which is speaking with one voice - thanks to the concerted efforts of the African Union.

Key Takeaways from Lord Nicholas Stern

- Lord Nicholas Stern emphasized several important issues in relation to Africa’s struggle against climate changes.
 1. The need for private entrepreneurial assistance in the financing and implementation of projects
 2. The need to create and implement innovative policies and projects
 3. The need for increased national, regional and global investment
 4. Active growth in green energy in the various areas of commerce and industry.
- Lord Stern also emphasized the fact that adaptation, development and mitigation policies should not be viewed separately, but should be viewed as part of the same whole – a powerful singular and combined strategy to combat climate change.
- It was highlighted that there will have to be a central focus on development and the economy, mobilizing action in every sector and readapting policies on carbon pricing.
- Other points identified as needing addressing were:
 1. The need for strengthening of all governmental and non-governmental networks in order to streamline the implementation of policy
 2. The improving of the viability of capital markets’ capacities in order to be able to handle risk more efficiently
 3. The need for good national policy and good national leaders in the region, who can inspire investor confidence via good example
 4. The right form of financing that is quick and easy to access.

- Finally, there was an overarching emphasis on the need for political will on Africa's part, to spearhead development, not only for Africa, but in order to lead as an example to the rest of the world.

AFRICA DAY - HIGH LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION (10.30-12.40)

- Following the opening session, Ms. Lerato Mbele (CNBC) moderated a high level discussion. The following panelists participated in the discussion:
 - H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Congo
 - H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia
 - H.E. Mr. Sangare, Minister of Environment, Mali
 - H.E. Mr. Trevor Andrew Manuel, Co-chair of the TC/Green Climate Fund
 - H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairman, African Union Commission
 - Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of AfDB
 - Mr. Adboulie Janneh, UN Under Secretary-General & Executive Secretary of ECA.
 - Lord Nicholas Stern, Grantham Institute

Key takeaways from the session

- The most important outcome of the session - the agreement that in order for Africa to move forward and succeed, Africa needs to have a common negotiating position - was summed up by H.E. Dr. Jean Ping as "**One Africa, one message**".
- Lord Nicholas Stern highlighted that this is a time of **opportunity** for Africa. Africa has many natural resources (land, water, wind, etc.) that can be capitalized on and, as prices are moving in favour of clean energy, it would make sense to capitalize on these. Africa also have coal and oil, an endowment the continent cannot frown upon, but there is a need to make using these resources less polluting by developing clean coal technology.
- The importance of the **Kyoto Protocol** was emphasized with particular emphasis on the Green Climate Fund. H.E. Mr. Trevor Manuel stated that raising USD 100 billion is feasible, but challenging.
- There is a sense of urgency for action to take place. The science is done, now Africa needs the **political will**, specifically for the leaders to make decisions - decisions regarding policies. These policies need to cover a range of problems in an innovative and constructive way. Examples include financial transactions tax as well as aviation and maritime tax. Also, businesses need clarity in terms of these policies. According to Lord Stern, if there are clear policies, the private sector funds will flow.
- Development, adaptation, and mitigation cannot be addressed individually but must be **integrated** in terms of climate change and sustainable development.

LAND, WATER, AND FORESTS: THE FOUNDATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (14.30-16.00)

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted a high level event titled “Land, Water, and Forests: The Foundation for Climate Resilient Development in Africa”. The event took place in the African Pavilion.
- The session was moderated by Ms. Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.
- The following panelists participated in the event:
 - H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairman, African Union Commission
 - H.E. Mr. Mahamat Bechir Okormi
 - Mr. Henri Djombo
 - H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President, Republic of Gabon
 - H.E. Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, Prime Minister, representing H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President, Republic of Senegal
 - Ms. Rachel Kyte, Vice President for Sustainable Development, The World Bank Group
 - Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank.

Key takeaways from the session

- There are always plans, but implementation is the problem and this needs to change if Africa is serious about fighting climate change - even though funding is not easily accessible,
- Institutions like the World Bank Group, Global Environmental Facility, African Development Bank and many others have worked to make funds available for major projects (e.g. Lake Chad, Great Green Wall, Congo Basin Forest Ecosystems).
- The government of Senegal has played a huge role in making sure that the Great Green Wall (a AUC project to face desertification in South Sahara) is a success.
 - The African Union Commission (AUC) is approving these projects and encouraging more of these.
 - The government of Senegal appreciates the efforts made by the GEF in funding the project.
 - The success of the projects reflects the political commitment and hard work from governments.
- At the upcoming Rio conference it is important for Africa to push its agenda to the top priorities of the conference.
- Kyoto-protocol should be used as the reference by Africa in their developmental path.
- Climate justice and climate ethics must be promoted.
- Countries should collaborate and develop common policies for sustainable development and where it should take place.

- Economic growth vs. environmental friendliness is still a challenge and this calls for collaboration by different institutions.
- Forests have been previously misrepresented in Climate Change negotiations, but Africa is working hard to put forests among the top priorities, since they perform many important tasks for the poor and for the world at large.
- The World Bank has invested millions into these projects and is still willing to fund more of similar projects.
- Climate Smart Agriculture should be viewed as a crucial component in this development.
- Overall, Africa is responding well to the challenge posed by Climate Change.
- This is also a call to investors that Africa is the place to invest in and the future is looking good for Africa.

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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