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African 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. 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 Change Information for Water Resources

River Room (13.00-15.00)

- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with African Union Commission (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners organized a roundtable discussion, addressing the issue of water information and water in Africa. The roundtable discussion took place in the River Room in the African Pavilion.
- The roundtable discussion was moderated by Mr. Arba Diallo, Chair of Global Water Partnership (GWP) West Africa.
- The following panelists participated in the event:
 - Dr. Elana Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary General, WMO
 - Mr. Saroj Jha, Global Fund for Disaster reduction & Recovery, World Bank
 - Dr. Seleshi Bekele, Senior Climate and Water Specialist
 - Mr. Bai Maas Taal, Executive Secretary, AMCOW
 - Mr. Hareesh Bohjwani, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University
 - Mr. Ruth Beukman, ES, Global Water Partnership, South Africa

- Prof. Bruce Hewitson, University of Cape Town

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:

- The issue is the lack of appropriate hydrological and meteorological mechanisms for climate prediction.
- One of the reasons these mechanisms are not in place is because Africa still has a lot of investing to do in other issues and this sector tends to be left behind.
- If Africa is to succeed in putting these mechanisms in place, prioritization of the mechanisms and planning is crucial. The allocation of funds for these mechanisms is also important.
 - Africa needs to talk to the right people (potential funders) who understand Africa and are willing to work with Africa, not to exploit the continent.
 - The World Bank is keen to offer Investment Action Plans to any country needing this kind of help.
- Countries should work at a regional level rather than alone (regional partnership) in order to get the best results. Also, pressure needs to be put on politicians and decision-makers to push the issue of technology even further.
- Information on climate change should be available and accessible to all people in order to make inclusive decisions. This implies that the economic value placed on data should be reasonable.
- Decision makers should value utilize indigenous knowledge since it has proven to be able to predict climate patterns.
- Furthermore, communities should be trained how to use water.
- In order to get more investors, Africa must give more incentives to investors who invest in water management projects and climate prediction technologies.

ALL DAY EVENT: Water, Climate & Development Day River Room (9.00-17.10)

- On Saturday December 3rd, The African Union Commission (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) arranged an all-day event on Water, Climate & Development in the River Room in the African Pavilion.
- The extensive event program looked as follows:
 - 9.00-9.45: Introduction and Setting the Scene.
 - 9.45-12.00: Session 1 – Global Policy Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation.
 - 12.00-13.00: Session 2 – Infrastructure, Technical and Ecosystem Solutions.
 - 13.00-15.00: Session 3 (Roundtable discussion) – Climate Change Information for Water Resources.
 - 15.00-16.00: Session 4 – Financial and Institutional Solutions.
 - 16.00-17.00: High Level Panel 1: Reflections and Perspectives for Integrating Water into the Climate Regime.
 - 17.00-17.10: Summary of Key Messages for COP 17: Next Step and Close of Day.

Session 1: Global Policy Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation River Room (9.45-12.00)

- The Water, Climate & Development Day in the River Room started out with a session on global policy solutions for adaptation and mitigation.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- Water conservation has been less dealt with over the last COP's.
- COP 17 must result in decisions that will solve the injustices that concern women, children and other vulnerable groups.
- Investments in water management, information and knowledge must be prioritized.
- AMCOW (African Ministerial Conference on Water) and the AU are the institutions/organizations that are committed to push policy making that will prioritize water management and adaptation measures to the scarcity of water.
- COP 17 must fulfill the Cancun resolution.
- An estimate of \$9 -11 billion funds are needed (By 2030) for water management.
- Better climate prediction information is important so as to be able to avoid some detrimental impacts of climate change.
- Partnership among African countries and awareness among people is important in order to move forward.
- Water and Climate Coalition (WCC) has been active in trying to bring all parties around the globe into one playing field which is water and climate change adaptation measures.

- ❑ There is a need to push the water issue into the agenda of UNFCCC.
- ❑ The Nairobi Work Programme should be strengthened and used to produce water focused initiatives (thematic).
- ❑ Partnership with the private sector is important as it has proven to be a success in a number of places (e.g. Sydney sea water purification project).
- ❑ There is a need for structural formation and capacity building given that current institutions have demonstrated limited capacity to deal with issues of the caliber currently experienced.
- ❑ The African Green Fund must also be utilized for projects that are related to water management and climate change adaptation.
- ❑ Africa in partnership with other developing countries, must speak with one voice.
- ❑ It is time to move beyond ideas and now focus on implementation.

Session 2: Infrastructure, Technical and Ecosystem Solutions River Room (12.00-13.00)

- ❑ At noon participants of the Water, Climate & Development Day assembled in the River Room to discuss infrastructural, technical and ecosystem solutions in relation to water.

Key takeaways from the Session

- ❑ It was stressed that communities cannot wait for perfect information before taking action against the roots of climate change. Policies and institutional arrangements have been put in place; now is the time to act.
- ❑ Climate change interventions must be rooted in development, aligned with mitigation and adaptation.
- ❑ Focus must also be on rehabilitation and operation of existing infrastructure.
- ❑ Africa has received the lowest proportion of climate change financing among developing regions. Only 190 of the 7088 CDM projects are hosted in Africa.
- ❑ AfDB is ready to partner to ensure food security, water supply security and energy security in Africa.
- ❑ Regional Policy Dialog aims to:
 - Raise awareness among the public and decision-makers on the importance of water-based climate change adaptation.
 - Provide a platform for all stakeholders.
 - Promote the exchange of experiences and unite efforts.
- ❑ Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) is an effective and economical approach to safeguard people from climate impact. Needs include:
 - Stakeholder engagement.
 - A global fact base and communities of practice demonstrating effectiveness of nature based solutions in different circumstances.
 - Analytical tools to show vulnerability and impacts.

Session 4: Financial and Institutional Solutions

River Room (15.00-16.00)

- In the afternoon, people gathered in the River Room to participate in the third session of the Water, Climate & Development Day.

Key takeaways from the Session

- Africa has hydro-electric power generation potential that is not fully utilized at the moment.
- Hydroelectric power generation is a more viable option because it leads to water management and flood protection. Africa has to attract more investors in this field.
- Right now, the majority of African countries have minimal access to funding due to lack of capacity to receive such funding.
- However, negotiating with investors is an art that Africa needs to master. It is about how you ask for investments.
- African countries should fully utilize The Green Fund which will help in determining the focal points of funding.
- The Green Fund also ensures that countries have full capacity to access the finance needed.
- Africa needs more private sector involvement but to achieve this, the continent needs to learn how to negotiate with the private sector.
- The essence is to make private companies aware of the impact that climate change might have on their already existing investments and try to convince them to invest in mitigation and adaptation measures.
- However, over-reliance on private sector alone is risky, so Africa needs to diversify sources of funding. More inclusion of the public sector is also important.
- An effective governing structure also needs to be built, which will enable the voice of Africa to be heard in the global village.

Session 5: High Level Panel 1: Reflections and Perspectives for Integrating Water into the Climate Regime

River Room (16.00-17.00)

- At 4 pm, people assembled in the River Room for a High Level Discussion on integrating water into the climate regime.

Key takeaways from the Session

- Mr. Simon Brooks started of the session, explaining what the European Investment Bank is. It became clear that the bank is owned by the member states, that the bank is a regular bank, but that does not do grants.
- The European Investment Bank does most of its business in Europe. Only 10 % is done outside the EU (6-7 billion US Dollars)

- However, projects are underway in East Africa, Malawi and Durban. Projects focus on water and sanitation.
- Mr. Brooks also talked about what it would take for an African Government to get more investment from the European Investment Bank. He raised two key aspects:
 - Need to communicate with the countries what their priorities are and where they most want the European Investment Bank to work (what is the shopping list). In cases where the priority is water, it is important to indicate which interventions make the most sense (money or technical assistance).
 - The projects the European Investment Bank invests in need to be financially sustainable. There is need to work on the physical aspects of the project as well as the management dimension. The projects should stick around for the long haul.
- Following Mr. Simon Brooks presentation, Sering Jallow talked about the effort of the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- The AfDB invests 1,5 billion US Dollars a year in the energy sector. Renewable energy, however, represents only a small portion of this.
- Projects in water and sanitation are mostly focused on adaptation since the impact of climate change mostly affects the vulnerable portion of society.
- It was made clear that the African Green Fund by AfDB will try and target funds from the Green Climate Fund.
- Anja Grobicki talked about the need for focus on infrastructure in climate change negotiations.
- Also, Ms. Grobicki touched on the importance of how climate change funds are designed and structured.
- Generally, the panel underscored the challenge in designing funds to target ticket items needed in water and sanitation. It was pointed out that the perspective of private banks and development banks was well covered, but little perspective was provided on insurance. It was noted that more insight on reinsurance offerings was just as important.
- Anders Berntell offered 6 compelling reasons to focus on water. He stated that proposals put together in Cancun and Durban were not exactly the same, but the underlying aspects were.
- Mr. Berntell raised three key reflections.
 - Urgency – droughts and floods are already affecting us and poor communities are hit the hardest. This has effects both at the individual and economic levels. Multi-nationals are beginning to understand that water is a real risk for their livelihood.
 - Role of water in negotiations and reconstruction – Water is a natural resource and is linked to other parts of the economy. It has many components in negotiations. Negotiators wonder why water is being pushed for yet it is

captured in many parts of the negotiation. The challenge is the lack of a common link between the different aspects of water.

- There is need for a substantive technical discussion before the next COP meeting. There is already a proposal by Bangladesh

Building Disaster Resilience Desert Room (9.00-11.00)

- In the morning, people gathered in the Desert Room for the “Building Disaster Resilience” event, hosted by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The event showcased governments that successfully build resilience against drought, floods, and cyclones.

Key takeaways from the Session

- The aim of the side event was to show case examples of success in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation integration and to illustrate and share lessons learned on how to move from policies to practices, in Africa and other regions.
- Various stakeholders from different levels and regions were brought together to share experiences and discuss how to implement and integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- It was emphasized that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation share similar goals and need to work to reduce common root causes in order to reduce the impact of disasters and climate change. Both fields aim to reduce the vulnerability of communities and achieve sustainable development.
- It was also agreed that there is a need to move more systematically to implement disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Frameworks are in place but the time to implement these strategies (at a practical level) is now. There is a tendency in Africa to act slowly and often too late. This is driven by a failure to be proactive, inadequate or no mechanisms put in place, no early warning systems in place (and when there are systems, they are not being used effectively) as well as poor infrastructure.
- A political dimension was raised: the right type of leadership (at a local level) is needed. There needs to be a political will to implement these strategies. Investments are lacking and there is no, or very little, attempt to try harness economic opportunities.
- Long and short term solutions to the problem of implementation include training, finance, infrastructure, commitment from everyone as well as everyone working together.
- Dr. Diallo from ACMAD presented on what ACMAD is and does as well as some of their current work in Africa.
- Prof. Laban Ogallo (Director of ICPAC) emphasized that early warning systems provide information enabling vulnerable communities to take action and avoid losses, yet countries are acting too slowly and are being affected by disasters that they were warned about in advance. He addressed the need for knowledge (how to interpret data) at a community level, research and technology as well as capacity.

- On a more positive note, Mayor Al Arquillano (Philippines) presented on the Sanfran Camotes Approach. Despite being a small island municipality, it has been acknowledged as a *champion* in terms of advocating for the global campaign on disaster risk reduction through building resilient communities. In fact, it has garnered several awards and recognition for its contribution to this endeavor, being a model municipality for Disaster Risk Reduction. Its most remarkable initiative is the establishment of the *Purok* System, a micro structure of municipal governance at the sub-village level, a one-of-a kind innovation seen only in San Francisco.
- The aims, challenges and risks of The Gambia Programme were also discussed.

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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