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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).

Leadership for Environment and Development Desert Room (11.30-13.00)

- On Sunday, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network invited participants to take part in the session "Leadership for Environment and Development".
- At the session, Editor Tunde Imolehin presented the launch of "Green-it" – a new African Magazine, addressing climate change issues.

Key Takeaways from the session

- Issues around climate change need to be addressed with awareness and sharing of experiences. Many people do not have the ability/platform to voice their concerns even when at times, these are the people most affected. There is much information about climate change and this information needs to be shared. This raises the topic of the importance of the role of media regarding climate change awareness, specifically what needs to be done and how it is to be done. For information to be useful, it needs to be shared.

- The first challenge that needs to be addressed is enabling the media to report on environmental concerns – by allocating funding as media is an expensive venture. This requires sponsorship and collaboration, which is always a challenge.
- The second challenge is then making sure that there is a standard – the quality of the work needs to be good. This would mean educating the media on environmental issues. At present, it has been asked to what extent journalists understand the issues.
- A point was raised that countries need to reach out to media from other countries (foreign media) to expand the audience base.
- This session also saw the launch of the publication of an African magazine “Green-it” by editor Tunde Imolehin, present at the session. He addressed the issue of morals in media – journalists need to report the facts and not what people want to hear.

Nutrition and Climate Change: Making the connection to enhance livelihood resilience, health, and women’s empowerment

Desert Room (18.30-20s.00)

- On Sunday night, the World Food Program hosted an event in the Desert Room, focusing on nutrition and climate change.

Key Takeaways from the session

- Nutrition has always been less represented on climate change convention agendas. The session emphasized the need to put nutrition and women in the center of negotiations.
- It’s important to note that nutrition is not only an issue of health as it results from many aspects (e.g. agricultural failure, land dispossession etc.). Dealing with it needs a holistic approach.
- There is gender issues associated with nutrition. Women and children are the ones vulnerable to malnutrition. A call was made for negotiators to put people (especially women and children) at the center of the negotiations.
 - Information must be available to the people; they need to know what is happening and how they can adapt.
 - Organizations must make sure that the food (aid) gets to women first because of their role in the households.
 - Education programmes should be established, that will educate young girls and make them aware of the existing issues and how they can adapt when they start their families.
- Since women are responsible for household food security, they should be empowered with information needed to combat malnutrition.
- Also, there should be focus on adolescent girl children, teaching them about nutrition and adaptation strategies so that when they grow up and marry, they will be well trained to adapt to these issues.
- School feeding programmes should also be pushed in adaptation measures.

- Finally, a call for a people-centered approach on adaptation development because people matter the most (especially women and children). Also, there was a call for establishment of women self help groups where women would get useful information on nutritional matters and climate change.

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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