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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. 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).

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE AND ADAPTATION ROUNDTABLE: GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Desert Room (10.00-12.15)

- This morning, the African Pavilion hosted a High Level Dialogue and Adaptation Roundtable on global sustainability in a changing climate.
- The High Level Dialogue gathered senior representatives from science, policy, business, and civil society to discuss the context within which climate change is operating the grand challenge of a world transition to global sustainability.
- The High Level Dialogue took place in the Desert Room in the African Pavilion and was followed by a press conference and lunch in the African Pavilion.
- The High Level Dialogue was presented by the 3rd Nobel Laureate Symposium on Global Sustainability (SEI, SRC, PIK) and the Government of South Africa.
- Amongst many other, the high level participants included:
 - H. E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa
 - Mr. Jean Ping, African Union Commission Chairperson
 - Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, EU

- Lord Nicholas Stern, Baron Stern of Brentford, Professor of Economics and Government, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics (LSE), and 2010 Professor of Collège de France.
- Mr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The meeting was closed to note-takers - so no notes are provided.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Low Carbon Development and Energy Access for Africa

Rainforest Room (14.00-16.00)

- The African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union Commission (AU), organized a roundtable discussion, addressing the issue of Low Carbon Development and Energy Access for Africa.

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:

- Regardless of its richness in natural resources, Africa remains poor. In particular, the poor state of infrastructure in Sub Saharan Africa is a hindering factor to development.
- Energy is important and a key engine of economic growth. With that in mind, energy policies should embrace sustainable development.
- The greatest challenge is to have low carbon emission growth by encouraging sustainable development. This is where the issue of technology comes in. Africa needs to make sure that the kinds of technology used in development improve the state of the environment.
- Certain projects have been put forward to tackle the issue of lack of energy (e.g. Inga hydroelectric plant). These projects will embrace low carbon development.
- The issue that Africa is faced with is lack of funding as these low carbon development methods prove to be more expensive than the environmental hostile methods.
- One of the reasons investors do not come to invest in Africa is because of the risks associated with such investments.
- The role of African governments is to ensure that they provide incentives that will provide security to the investors' funding. However, Africa should not do this at the expense of its own people.
- Norway has put strict policies on investors and they make sure that the interests of the locals count most (e.g. companies investing in hydroelectric plants sign a contract which states that after 50 years, the project will be state owned). Africa should use this approach in order to avoid being exploited again.
- There are some examples in Africa where hydroelectricity is the main supplier of energy (Ethiopia). However, some methods like wind and geothermal are not yet fully utilized.

This calls for investors in collaboration with government acting as a regulator and negotiator for its own people.

- Since funding is not easily available, Africa should start funding itself. Little efforts will contribute to a greater outcome.
- The capitalist approach must be done away with and communities should be at the forefront of this development.
- AfDB is funding some of the projects but this is not sufficient.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Climate Change Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Reduction

River Room (13.20-15.20)

- ISDR (UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) and WFP (World Food Programme), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union Commission (AU), organized a roundtable discussion, addressing the issue of climate change vulnerability and disaster risk reduction. The roundtable discussion took place in the Desert Room in the African Pavilion.
- The following panelists participated in the event:
 - H.E. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union
 - Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary General, UNISDR
 - Mr. Denis McClean, Chief, Communications and Outreach, UNISDR
 - Rajendra K. Pachauri, IPCC Chair
 - Mr. Abdou Sane, President of Parliamentarian Network on DRR, Member of Parliament in Senegal and DRR Champion in Africa
 - Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
 - H.E Mr. Jato Sillah, Minister of Forestry and the Environment, Republic of The Gambia
 - Mr. Filipe Domingos Freires Lucio, Global Framework for Climate Services Office, WMO
 - Mr John Ken, African Development Bank
 - Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary
 - Sheila Sisulu, WFP, Deputy Executive Director
 - Ms. Renate Christ, IPCC

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:

- African countries were highlighted as being amongst the most disaster prone in the world.
- Statistics have revealed that two of the most damaging disasters in Africa were Droughts and Floods, being responsible for 79% and 18% losses in GDP respectively.

- Disaster was identified at the session as a main inhibitor of development in many African countries, climate change being identified as only a subset of the global sustainability crisis.
 - In exemplifying this point, statistics show that disasters contribute to 3-15% of annual loss in GDP in African Countries.
- Challenges identified in disaster management was access to usable information in orders to inform policy and strategy development, and re-structuring of governmental and non-governmental institutes in order to address this threat across the sectors of governance and society.
- Suggested solutions to these challenges were the creation of increased databases on a regional and national level; increasing awareness of disaster management via the various forms of media and non-governmental advocacy, as well as active interaction with the African Development Bank and related organizations in order to form and implement effective re-infrastructure programs.
- Other strategies include the creation of more disaster resilient environments via the use of national and regional strategies that have been developed. These include flood coping strategies developed and implemented in countries such as Mozambique.
- The African Development Bank has developed procedures for disaster stricken countries to apply for aid. This aid comes in the form of emergency relief, and adaptability and assistance programs, the latter being for long subsisting disaster-effect issues.
- Despite these efforts, it was pointed out that further measures need to be developed to mobilize the private sector to assist in the climate change fight, as well as increasing mechanisms that ensure financial relief reaches the rural communities most affected.

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER

River Room (9.00-11.15)

- At 9am, people assembled in the River Room to take part in the second High Level Panel on Water, Climate and Development, arranged by the African Ministerial Conference on Water.
- The session was chaired by Hon. Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Water Resources, Lesotho. The opening statement was given by Hon. Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Daniel Mokokera.
- The following panelists participated in the panel discussion.
 - Hon. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda
 - Mr. Jatto Sillah, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of The Gambia
 - Mr. Anders Flanking, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sweden.
 - Mr. Bruno Oberle, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Switzerland
 - Mr. Jos Delbeke, Director General, DG, Climate Action European Commission
 - Mr. Jose Valencia, Ambassador of Equador to South Africa
 - Mr. Simon Brooks, Vice President, European Investment Bank
- Summary and conclusion was done by Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary, GWP.
- Closing and Next Steps was done by H.E. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union

Key Takeaways from the Session

- The fundamental issue of water resourcing, management and climate change mitigation in relation to climate change was the primary issue at this conference. It was warmly heralded by a variety of experts and leaders including Executive Secretary of the Georgia Wildlife Federation Dr Anna Grobicki.
- During the session, it was emphasized that water needs to be seen globally as a resource and not simply a department of international, regional and national structures. Also, it was stressed that the issue directly affects policy, strategy and infrastructure across all departments of government and business sectors.
- Statistics have forecasted that at the current rate, humanity's fresh water consumption requirements shall exceed that of the available water supplies by 40%.
- Experts and leaders have prioritized advocacy of the following key issues relating to water:
 - Integration of the water issue into climate change policy both on regional and national levels.
 - Effective disaster response strategies need to be developed not only to address the impact of disasters, but to create disaster resilient infrastructure in order to withstand the effects of disasters.

- Appropriate forecasting of weather events needs to occur in order to predict and plan coping and resilience strategies ahead of disasters in order to minimize their affects.
- Proper investing into disaster resilience programs to empower poor communities with the resources to effectively combat the effects of disasters and climate change in Africa.
- Climate mitigation needs to occur in the form of green sustainability programs.
- Experts proposed that climate change and disaster resilience policies at the regional and national levels need to be integrated, cross cutting all departments and levels of governance. This is pivotal for a coordinated and direct addressing of these issues in a way that streamlines policy making and implementation.
- Initiatives and projects are already being started in order to address these issues. These include proposed workshops to address the issue of technical support in African countries, as well as various lake and environment programmes assisted by the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the African Development Bank.
- The African Development Bank and international and regional Green Funds have also developed protocol and procedures for applicant countries to apply to them for financial assistance in order to finance climate change and disaster management programs.
- Other suggested strategies include active motivation and participation of the private sectors, especially in small-scale projects.

Implementation of Environment Action Plan River Room (11.30-13.00)

- Prior to lunch, People gathered in the River Room for a session on policies and institutions for climate change and environmental management. The session was arranged by the African Union Commission and New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- The session focused on the **AU/NEPAD Environmental Action Plan (EAP)**, with specific mention of the implementation of the climate change component of the NEPAD EAP, the progress report of the Review study of the implementation of the NEPAD EAP, the decentralization of environmental governance in Africa, as well as the technological change and environmental sustainability in Africa.
- It was emphasized that Africa has a **wealth of resources** (land, water, minerals, etc.). Therefore the African continent offers significant potential. With this potential, we must ensure that we use the environment as an economic asset in a sustainable way.
- The importance of having a platform for broad discussion was brought forward.
- **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, which plays an active role in the development of the EAP, ensured the AU and NEPAD of their commitment to continue working together to achieve their goals regarding the EAP.

- The importance of the **African Common Negotiating Position** ensures that there is a common understanding of Africa's position and this is necessary for negotiations to be effective. It needs to be stressed that mitigation has been one of the priorities of the ministers yet adaptation needs to be a higher priority in Africa.
- The review study allowed for the challenges as well as recommendations for implementation to be determined. The main challenges identified were fragmented policies and the absence of political will. It was recommended that funding should rely more on our governments than on external funding.
- In terms of **technology**, innovation is key. There needs to be innovative new ways of doing things. For this, leadership is needed. It was suggested by Professor John Mugabe (University of Pretoria) that Africa should partner with China and India to improve innovation for implementation.

Making Carbon Finance Work for Africa Sagewood, ICC (9.00-11.00)

- At 9am the World Bank hosted a session on how to make carbon finance work in Africa. The event was hosted in the Sagewood conference room of the ICC.

Key Takeaways from the Session

- This session, hosted by the World Bank, focused on **carbon finance**, specifically The BioCarbon Fund and The Carbon Initiative for Development (Ci-Dev). The session aimed to discuss the approach the World Bank has taken to its mission to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the developing world.
- The discussion shed light on opportunities the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** offers to the forestry sector and also on the challenges encountered by project developers when complying with the regulatory requirements.
- Carbon finance is one tool in an array of tools for climate finance, and it was agreed by all panelists that it is a tool that is proving to be **successful**. It was said that the world will not be able to address climate change if not all countries are addressing climate change within their own capacities.
- Both the **private and public sector** have a large role to play in carbon finance because they are the ones who will need to make the investments. Carbon finance has been shown to increase the bankability of projects, by adding an additional revenue stream, which reduces the risks of commercial lending or grant finance. Thus, carbon finance provides a mean of leveraging new private and public investment into projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby mitigating climate change while contributing to sustainable development.
- A concern from a member of the audience regarding the **decreasing carbon price** was raised. This lower carbon price will affect projects as the credits they receive will be lower than originally expected. This, together with the high transactional costs of a project, prevents projects from being successful. With this, it was answered that the

carbon market is affected by the economy, but that it is a market that will survive long-term.

- **The Ibi Batéké Degraded Savannah Afforestation Project taking place in the DRC**, funded by the BioCarbon Fund, is leading the local population and farmers to stop the destruction of the natural forests and to concentrate on planting managed forests. By generating income for local communities and producing charcoal from the plantation, the project is reducing the deforestation of the remaining forest galleries, generally used to make charcoal. As a result, it is reducing soil erosion, mitigating water loss from runoff, and sequestering carbon dioxide. The project is also avoiding bush fires and their associated negative impacts on soils and ecosystems. In the long term, the sustainably-managed plantations will provide shelter to wildlife and improve biodiversity.
- The **Humbo Ethiopia Assisted Natural Regeneration project** was another project briefly discussed. The project is providing environmental services, including sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of native vegetation. The project is providing a direct income stream for communities through sustainable harvesting of forest resources.

Announcement:

African Group of Negotiators at COP17

The African Group of Negotiators at COP17 held a press briefing today, Monday 05 December 2011.

The press briefing was focused on the African Position and statement at COP17 that has been issued so far on behalf of the African Group.

The press briefing was addressed by Mr. Hussen Alfa Nafo, Spokesperson of the African Group of Negotiators.

The second press briefing of the African Group Negotiators is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 07 December 2011, at 16:30 -17:00**, at the Yellowwood Room, Ground Floor, in the ICC.

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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