

## **2018 Africa Climate Week - High Level Segment**

### **Climate Action for Sustainable Development: Driving Change in Africa**

**12 April 2018, Nairobi, Kenya**

**United Nations Complex  
United Nations Avenue, off Limuru Road  
Gigiri, Kenya**

#### **Information note (English)**

### **1. Background**

The Africa Climate Week 2018 (ACW2018) will be convened in Nairobi, Kenya from 09 – 13 April 2018. It is organized by the Government of Kenya and the Nairobi Framework Partnership partners<sup>1</sup> and cooperating organizations<sup>2</sup>.

ACW2018 will be an umbrella for a series of climate-related events focused on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation – Challenges and opportunities, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Global Climate Action. The ACW is also the premier regional trade fair and knowledge sharing platform for discussing climate action on the continent.

As negotiations advanced on the development on the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines and noting the political significance of the upcoming Talanoa Dialogue this year, the ACW 2018 will discuss and highlight strategies for accelerating global climate action including by realigning finance flows in the African region consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

For this reason, the ACW2018 will include a high-level segment, hosted by the government of Kenya, to address matters in the international agenda of the climate action, which are of political importance to African countries. The high level ministerial segment will be held on 12 April.

### **2. Objectives**

As a milestone year with Talanoa Dialogue and the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme expected at COP 24 in December 2018, the theme of the ACW is “Climate Action for

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<sup>1</sup> African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Emissions Trading Association, UNEP DTU Partnership, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and World Bank Group.

<sup>2</sup> Africa Low Emission Development Partnership (Africa LEDP), and the Climate Markets & Investment Association (CMIA).

Sustainable Development: Driving Change in Africa”. In this context, the high-level segment of the ACF that takes place on Thursday, 12 April will focus on:

- Session 1: Visions for NDC enhancement and implementation;
- Session 2: Merging SDGs and NDCs; and
- Session 3: GFPN & CAPE/Fiscal policy to support NDCs and mobilize green investment.

This high-level segment will provide opportunities to African ministers, during this important period of the climate change negotiations, to:

- Take stock of the implementation of NDCs; and
- Look towards the enhancement of the second round of NDCs in 2020.

### **3. Expected Outcome**

The high-level segment will result in a collection of messages from ministers and senior non-Party stakeholders. The messages would enable momentum for higher ambition for implementation and revision of NDCs. This may also help Parties and non-Parties stakeholders to prepare for their involvement in the processes of Talanoa and Pre-2020 Ambition dialogues.

### **4. Target Audience and Participants**

The following groups will be the focus of the high-level segment sessions:

- African Ministers
- Senior level representatives of international organizations
- CEO/CFO/Director level representatives of the private sector
- Global Climate Action Champion
- Director level representatives of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

The segment will also be open to all participants registered in the Africa Climate Week to attend as observers. Organizing partners and the Government of Kenya will ensure that all efforts are made to reach out the different African groups and secure the desired level of participation. Some of the groups to be contacted include: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), African Union (AU) and African negotiators.

## 5. Draft Programme

Thursday, 12 April 2018

### 10:30 – 11:00 Opening Session

Host Country welcome remarks:

**H.E. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Republic of Kenya**

Organizers welcome remarks:

**Ligia Noronha**, Director of UN Environment's Economy Division, UN Environment

**Patricia Espinosa**, Executive Secretary UNFCCC

**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

**Tomasz Chruszczow**, High Level Champion for COP 24

Moderator: **Julie Gichuru**, Media Personality and CEO, Arimus Media Limited

11:00 – 12:30

### Session 1

UNFCCC

### Visions for NDC enhancement and implementation

**Format: roundtable**

**Moderator:** Julie Gichuru, Media Personality and CEO, Arimus Media Limited

*The key targeted speakers for the debate are:*

- *Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary UNFCCC*
- *Tomasz Chruszczow, High Level Champion for COP 24*
- *H.E Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner of Rural Development & Agriculture, Africa Union Commission*
- *Prof. Collette A. Suda, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Kenya*
- *Thabo Molekoa, CEO Sub-Saharan Africa Region, Thyssenkrupp*
- *Erick Donasian, Managing Director, Off-Grid Electric*

#### Description (objective):

According to the World Population Prospects by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, between 2017 and 2050, the populations of 26 African countries are projected to expand to at least double their current size. More than half of global population growth between now and 2050 (54% of 2.3 billion) is expected to occur in Africa. The combined population of the LDCs, roughly one billion in 2017, is projected to increase by 33 % between 2017 and 2030, and to reach 1.9 billion persons in 2050. While concentration of global population growth in the poorest countries is a challenge to governments in implementing the NDCs and SDGs, Africa's technology-driven transformation is already beginning to improve the economic growth in the continent. Digital revolution has already been under way in multiple sectors such as in communication, transportation, energy, and agriculture. If aligned with good governance, education and climate-smart policy and regulatory framework, the population growth could serve as a positive push for Africa to be a model for rapid economic development in a socially just and sustainable manner, leapfrogging environmentally costly developmental paths.

In this session, Ministers and high-level non-Party stakeholders will be invited to share their visions for the NDC enhancement and implementation, harnessing digital solutions and technological innovation in relevant and vital sectors such as:

1. Transportation;
2. Agriculture; and
3. Energy.

These are key sectors for transformation into a carbon neutral resilient society. It is an opportunity for Ministers and high level NPS to envision clear development pathways for Africa. In this context, they are also invited to announce new pledges for commitments and action, which subsequent sessions and meetings in the region could engage and operationalize.

**12:30 – 14:00**      **VIP Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:30**  
**Session 2**  
**AFDB**

**Merging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

**Moderator:** Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Climate Finance Specialist, Atkins WS International

**Format:** Davos style

**Speakers:**

- *H.E. Jose Didier Tonato, Minister, Government of Benin*
- *John Christensen, Director, UDP*
- *Anne Desiree Ouloto, Deputy Minister, Government of Cote d'Ivoire*
- *Al Hamdou Dorsouma, Manager, Climate Change & Green Growth, African Development Bank (AfDB)*
- *Edith Ofwona, Senior Program Specialist, International Development Research Center (IDRC)*

Three years since the landmark signing of the Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement has seen momentum in Africa to embark on low carbon and climate resilient development Pathways. A significant number of African countries have ratified their Nationally Determined Contributions as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, signalling strong political will on the continent to promote development while safeguarding the environment. Whereas at an operational level, these two agendas remain largely considered as parallel operations through different institutional, policy and administrative processes, there is immense reward in combined action on both climate change and sustainability. For a continent that is yet to have in place hard infrastructure needed for its long term development, this provides a huge opportunity to incentive sustainable infrastructure investments.

Alignment of these two agendas is imperative to reduce duplication and increase efficiency - maximizing resources, technical capacity, information, and expertise sharing.

Several institutions and development partners are actively involved in supporting SDGs and NDCs in Africa, including the African Development Bank which is implementing its second Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020, with the aim to transition Africa to a low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathway. As part of its support to African NDCs, the Bank recently established the Africa NDC Hub in collaboration with 12 other development partners. The Hub prioritizes aligning NDCs, SDGs and National development plans.

This segment is a call for Action. It is an interactive session to share experience, good practices and challenges.

15:30 – 16:00      **Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 17:00      Fiscal policy to support NDCs and mobilize green investment**

**Session 3      Format: roundtable**

**UNEP DTU**

**Moderator:** Joy Kim, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN Environment

**Speakers:**

- Weijen Leow, Joint Lead, Climate Action Peer Exchange (CAPE), World Bank
- Amal Benaissa, Impact Manager, Sustainability Department BMCE, Bank of Africa
- Dirk Forrister, President & CEO, IETA & Former Chairman, White House Climate Change Task Force, President Clinton Administration

Public finance will play an important role not only as a source of revenues for green investment but also in leveraging private finance towards achieving the Paris Agreement. The smart use of limited public finance through fiscal incentives, together with an enabling policy framework, which includes price signalling and policies that can shift the behaviours of consumers and businesses, such as carbon taxes and fossil fuel subsidy reforms, can help scale-up private financial flows towards activities that support the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Such fiscal instruments are considered a cost-effective and efficient approach to reducing GHG emissions, and can also support the more efficient use of limited public resources by ensuring expenditure reaches intended beneficiaries and is coherent with national and international commitments. Over 90 countries, and more than 25 in Africa, included some form of fiscal policy in their NDC.

While carbon pricing and other fiscal policies have several benefits, there can also be drawbacks to their implementation. For example, carbon prices can increase costs to businesses and reduce the purchasing power of households. Thus, it is important that fiscal policies are accompanied by targeted social protection measures or other compensatory measures to mitigate negative impacts on vulnerable groups, as well as by due consideration of potential distributional impacts of providing incentives to the private sector.

In addition to providing incentives and crowding-in private finance, various public finance options and mechanisms such as public debt, Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), can also invest directly in low-carbon projects including infrastructure. Indeed, SWFs can leverage their specific characteristics (i.e. inter-generational nature, medium- to long-term investment horizon, higher tolerance for risk) to support long-term sustainable development by diversifying the economy away from hydrocarbons and tapping into burgeoning sectors such as clean technology and sustainable infrastructure.

This event will gather public sector experts from across the continent to discuss countries' experiences and commitments on using fiscal incentives to support their NDCs, challenges faced and ways forward in designing policy frameworks and implementing reforms. It will be sponsored by [the Green Fiscal Policy Network \(GFPN\)](#) in collaboration with the World Bank's Climate Action Peer Exchange (CAPE).

Further information and contact:

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Anja Waldruff – Advisor, Environmental Policy Programme, GIZ ([anja.waldruff@giz.de](mailto:anja.waldruff@giz.de))

Weijen Leow – Joint Lead, Climate Action Peer Exchange (CAPE), World Bank  
(wleow@worldbank.org)

**17:00 – 18:00**  
**Session 4**  
**WORLD BANK**

### **Climate Finance as a catalyst for the promotion of integrated landscape management and Rural Development**

**Format:**

**Moderator:** Julie Gichuru, Arimus Media Limited

**Speakers:**

- HE Celmira da Silva, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Land Environment and Rural Development, Mozambique
- Jose Manuel Gonçalo, Zambezia, Coordinator, National Sustainable Development Fund, Mozambique
- HE Ato Kebede Yimam, State Minister, Ministry of Forest, Ethiopia
- Tesfaye Ggonfa, REDD+ Oromia Coordinator, Ministry of Forest, Ethiopia
- H.E. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Honorable Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
- Benedict Libanda, CEO, Environmental Investment Fund, Namibia

This high-level plenary aims to highlight how African countries are using climate finance to promote sustainable rural development and integrated landscape management. This will include how they are addressing drivers of deforestation, working across value chains, ensuring the participation of several stakeholders in landscape management and promoting land use planning. The panel will highlight how different sources of climate finance support the promotion of sustainable rural development and integrated landscape management, including performance-based payments for REDD+, Readiness funds, and investments funds (GCF and the Climate Investment Funds). Finally, the session will highlight how these landscape programs contribute to the country's NDC.

**18:00 – 18:15**      **Closing Session**

- Climate Champion (to be confirmed)
- Minister from Kenya
- Partner organization