

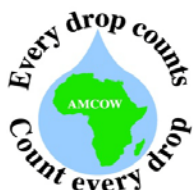
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African Minister's Council on Water



## PRELIMINARY SUMMARY REPORT WATER CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT DAY-COP 17, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, DEC 3, 2011

### KEY MESSAGES FROM THE WATER CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT DAY

- **Water needs to be sufficiently addressed on the UNFCCC agenda** since it is part of Article 4.1 e of the Climate Change Convention. Climate change is to a large extent water change and the water community is already dealing with the challenges. The existing experience and knowledge needs to be shared. In partnership – Africa, developing countries and development partners need to work strategically to ensure water resources as a thematic focus in the UNFCCC.
- **Water is not a sector, it is a resource.** Climate change is making water resources management more complex due to the uncertainty and unpredictability in weather patterns. The complexity and cross-cutting nature of water must be fully acknowledged. Addressing water is not about bringing in sectoral interests, but a way of systematically addressing complexities that currently are addressed under headings such as hazards, floods, droughts,
- **Water is about both adaptation and mitigation.** It needs to be distinctly pointed out that the success of most mitigation interventions, as determined by the UNFCCC, rest upon the availability and sustainability of water resources.
- **Water knowledge expertise needs to inform the adaptation committee** to ensure linkages between NWP and the Cancun Agreement, emphasizing importance of water as a key medium for adaptation. Qualified water resource management expertise should be represented amongst the members of the Adaptation Committee
- **We welcome the SBSTA draft decision to organize a technical workshop on water.** This can be strengthened by establishing a thematic focus under the Nairobi Work Programme.
- **Establish water as a priority under the Green Climate Fund** with a sub thematic funding window for water resources management.
- **The Africa Green fund should include a thematic funding window for water resources** to be utilized for projects related to water management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Introduction and Setting the Scene

On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Department of Water Affairs, (DWA) South Africa, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Water and Climate Coalition (WCC) arranged an all-day event on Water, Climate and Development in the River Room at the African Pavilion.

The AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Her Excellency, Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, delivered the Welcome Statement at the Opening Session chaired by the AMCOW Executive Secretary, Mr. Bai Mass Taal. Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary, and Mr. Anders Berntell, the Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) also delivered opening statements as co-conveners

The program covered:

- 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 – 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 Steps and Close of Day.

## Session 1: Global Policy Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation

The Water, Climate & Development Day started with a session on global policy solutions for adaptation and mitigation. The Session was chaired by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, former Minister for Water and Irrigation, Egypt and current President of Arab Water Council, and featured presentations by Mr. Festus Luboyera of the Adaptation Sub-programme, UNFCCC Secretariat (Water and the Nairobi Work Programme), Mr. Chris Moseki of the South African UNFCCC Negotiation Team (Perspectives on Water and Climate Change in UNFCCC Negotiations), Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Vice President, Conservation International (Sustaining Economies through Water) and Mr. Simon Thuo, GWP Eastern Africa Regional Co-ordinator (Water: Key for both Adaptation and Mitigation). This was followed by a discussion on “Global Policy Solutions: Building Blocks for Integrating Water into the Climate Regime” moderated by Karin Lexén of the Water and Climate Coalition.

### Key Takeaways from the Session

- COP 17 must follow up to implement references to water resources in Paragraph 14 of the Cancun Adaptation Framework which calls for ‘Parties to put in place adaptation programmes on water resources...’
- There is a need to raise the profile of water in the agenda of UNFCCC as it is already part of Article 4.1 e of the Climate Change Convention
- Important to follow the negotiations on the adaptation committee to secure that water knowledge and expertise is informing the adaptation committee
- Important to strengthen linkages between water related information and knowledge generated under the NWP and adaptation programs and projects under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI)

- Important for the negotiations on Green Climate Fund to create space for a sub thematic funding window on water resources management. In the current Text being discussed for the Green Fund, two funding windows are suggested, one for adaptation and one on mitigation.
- The African Green Fund must also be utilized for projects that are related to water management and climate change adaptation.
- The Africa Green Fund should also include a dedicated thematic funding window for water resources
- Water resource governance and demand management has been less dealt with over the last COP meetings
- COP 17 must result in decisions that will solve the injustices that concern women, children and other vulnerable groups. The youth through the YOUNGO water group are now calling for action on water issues.
- Investments in water management, especially to ensure better hydrological data and information must be prioritized together with investments in water infrastructure
- AU and AMCOW as lead African institutions should continue to provide political leadership and ensure that policy making in the global climate change policy discourse prioritizes water management
- Climate change adaptation measures need to address the unique situation of Africa's water scarcity and build resilience to floods, droughts and other water related disasters
- An estimate of \$9 -11 billion is needed by 2030 for water management
- Better climate prediction information is important so as to be able to avoid detrimental impacts of climate change.
- Partnership among African countries and awareness is important to move forward
- The Nairobi Work Programme should establish a Thematic Focus on Water Resources Management, be strengthened in order to ensure follow up on initiatives such as the one that led to production of the report on "Freshwater Resources and Climate Change" under the Nairobi Work Programme, published by UNFCCC in 2011.
- 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 strengthening institutions and capacity building given that institutions have already demonstrated limited capacity to deal with current climate variability/change. From projected climate change impacts ,this will get worse
- Africa in partnership with other developing countries must speak with one voice and emphasize the need for a higher profile of water in the negotiations.
- Climate change is making the work of water managers more complicated as historical trends of precipitation, which traditionally have been used to project future precipitation patterns, are no longer reliable due to changes in the climate system.
- Need to focus on implementation as countries are already suffering from climate change impacts.

## **Session 2: Infrastructure, Technical and Ecosystem Solutions**

The session was chaired by Mr. Trevor Balzer, Acting Director General, Department of Water Affairs and President of AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (AMCOW TAC). The session featured presentations by Mr. Sering Jallow, Director of Water and Sanitation, AfDB / AWF (Optimizing Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation), Collin Heron of the National Water Commission, Conagua, Mexico (Building Resilience through Water Resources Management for Mitigating Climate Change, Experience from Mexico and Americas), and Mr. Frank Lowenstein, Director of Global Adaptation Team, the Nature Conservancy (Ecosystem Services and Linkages between Adaptation and Mitigation).

### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- Communities cannot wait for perfect information before taking action against the roots of climate change. Policies and institutional arrangements have been put in place in many countries; now is the time to act.
- Climate change interventions must be rooted in sustainable development, aligned and recognise co-benefits of 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 7,088 CDM projects are hosted in Africa.
- AfDB is ready to partner with others to ensure food security, water supply security and energy security in Africa.
- Mexico has carried out Regional Policy Dialogues aimed at:
  - Raising awareness among the public and decision-makers on the importance of water-based climate change adaptation.
  - Providing a platform for all stakeholders.
  - Promoting exchange of experiences and uniting efforts.
- Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) is an effective and economical approach to safeguard people from climate impact. This approach includes:
  - 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 3: Climate Change Information Solutions for Water Resources**

The roundtable discussion addressed the issue of water information in Africa. 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. Haresh Bohjwani, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University
- Ms. Ruth Beukman, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership, South Africa
- Prof. Bruce Hewitson, University of Cape Town

### **Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:**

- There is lack of appropriate hydrological and meteorological technology and mechanisms for climate prediction.
- One of the reasons these mechanisms are not in place is because Africa still has a lot of priority investing needs and water tends to be left behind.
- If Africa is to succeed in putting these mechanisms in place, prioritization of water as part of long term planning is crucial. The allocation of funds for these mechanisms is also important.
- Africa needs to find development partners 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 that requires support in strengthening water management systems
- Countries should work at a regional level rather than alone (regional partnership) in order to get the best results. Pressure needs to be put on politicians and decision-makers to advance appropriate technology in climate change and water resources
- 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 and utilize indigenous knowledge since it has proven to be able to predict climate patterns.
- Communities should be trained how to use water more efficiently
- In order to get more investors, Africa must give more incentives to investors who invest in water management projects and climate prediction technologies.
- Need to scale up efforts in water Investments, Institutions, Information, Infrastructure and Integration

## Session 4: Financial and Institutional Solutions

The session's theme was on "Building Blocks for Prioritizing Water in Climate Finance and Institutional Frameworks" and was chaired by Monica Scatasta, Deputy Economic Adviser, Water and Waste Management Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank and featured presentations and discussions by Prof. Mike Muller, GWP Technical Committee (Integrating Water and Climate Resilience into National Development and Institutional Frameworks and UNFCCC International Green Climate Fund), Mr. Aly Abou-Sabaa, Chair of the AfDB Climate Change Coordination Committee (Towards an African Climate Change Green Fund: Constraints and Opportunities), and Nigel Topping, Chief Innovations Officer of the Carbon Disclosure Project.

### Key takeaways from the Session

- Africa's hydro-electric power generation potential is not fully utilized at the moment.
- Hydroelectric power generation is a more viable renewable energy option because it also contributes to better water management, irrigation, drinking water supply and flood protection. Africa has to attract more investors in this field.
- The majority of African countries have minimal access to funding due to lack of capacity, high financial risk and inadequate instruments for efficient management of external funding.
- Africa needs more private sector involvement but to achieve this, the continent needs to learn how to negotiate with the private sector. Negotiating with investors is an art that Africa needs to master. It is about how you ask for investments and capacity to prepare fundable projects.
- African countries should more fully utilize the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund which will help in determining the focal points of funding.
- Need to ensure that the Adaptation funding instruments are not too complex so that countries can set up and access funds directly through a National Implementing Entities.
- The Green Climate Fund must ensure that countries have adequate human resources, expertise and capacity to access the finance needed.
- Need to make private companies aware of the impact that climate change might have on their already existing investments, the business value that is at risk because of the water insecurity, 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

The High level panel was moderated by Bai Maas Taal, and involved Mr. Simon Brooks, Vice President, the European Investment Bank, Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary, Mr. Anders Berntell, SIWI Executive Director, and Mr. Sering Jallow, Director, Water and Sanitation, AfDB / AWF.

### Key takeaways from the Session

- Mr. Simon Brooks started off the session, explaining what the European Investment Bank is. The EIB is owned by the European member states. The EIB is a regular bank, but it does not provide grants.
- EIB 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 raised key aspects for African governments to be clear on priorities in order to channel more investment from EIB:
  - Need to communicate with countries what their priorities are and where they need the European Investment Bank to focus its support. In cases where the priority is water, it is important to indicate and prioritize interventions that make the most sense (money or technical assistance).
  - The projects 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 set long term goal.
- Mr. Sering Jallow described the work of the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- The AfDB invests 1.5 billion U.S. dollars a year in the energy sector. Renewable energy, however, represents only a small portion of this.
- Projects in water supply 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 to target funds from the Green Climate Fund.
- Dr Ania Grobicki of GWP talked about the need for increased focus on water infrastructure in climate change negotiations, for both adaptation and mitigation purposes. She pointed out that the perspective of private banks and development banks was well covered, but little perspective was provided on insurance. More insight on reinsurance offerings was just as important, especially in preparing for more extreme climate events, especially droughts and floods.
- The Panel underscored the challenge in designing funds to target ticket items needed in water supply and sanitation.
- Anders Berntell of SIWI and WCC offered compelling reasons to focus on water. He raised three key reflections.
  - Urgency – droughts and floods are already affecting us and poor communities are hit the hardest. This is felt at both 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 in the negotiations.

- There is need for a technical workshop on water under SBSTA/SBI before the next COP meeting. At the close of Water, Climate and Development Day, this proposal was still alive in the negotiations under the Nairobi Work Programme.

## **End of Session**

The sessions ended with the closing remarks from the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, HE Rhoda Peace Tumusiime. She reiterated that for Africa, success in climate change adaptation and mitigation depends largely on improving the capacity to manage the water cycle specifically in terms of information, institutions, investment, infrastructure, integration and inclusiveness in implementation approaches. She stressed the need to ensure that the continent invests in water security and climate resilience to avoid leaving to waste the resources and efforts so far put into achieving the MDGs. She emphasized the importance of prioritizing infrastructure development, and investing in climate information both for decision making and improving preparedness of the vulnerable and affected communities at local level.