MAKING THE CASE: PRIORITIZING WATER IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

COP17 SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 1 December 2011 **Time:** 11:30-13:00 **Venue:** Africa Pavilion

I. CONTEXT

The African Development Bank, the African Union, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa are sponsoring the Africa Pavilion at COP17, where a program of various side events will address key African climate change issues. Side event discussants represent the various arenas in which these issues are being experienced and addressed -- policy, research, practice (civil society, NGOs), finance (donors, MDBs), advocacy. Each brings their experience and expertise to bear in answering the questions identified and providing policy recommendations and policy inputs for the subsequent Africa Day presentations. At those discussions, high-level speakers will be advocating for policies and practices based on these earlier discussions.

II. BACKGROUND

Challenges

According to the 4th Assessment Report by Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Africa is likely to be significantly affected by climate change due to its low adaptive capacity, while it only contributes .6 percent of the global GHG emissions. Most impacts of climate change appear in water-related phenomena, such as droughts, floods and sea level rise. Climate change will add extra burden to the existing challenges Africa is facing with regard to water resources management.

Extreme Droughts and Floods

Extreme droughts and floods are seen more frequently than ever on the continent. The Sahel, Horn of Africa and Southern Africa are already experiencing significant decreased precipitation. Yields from rain-fed agriculture could be 50 percent less in some countries by 2020, affecting food security and exacerbating malnutrition. Southern and Northern Africa are projected to suffer a decrease of water resources by the mid-century. African mega-deltas are likely to be gravely affected by climate change, due to large populations. Urban flooding associated with rapid urbanization will further aggravate living conditions of poor city dwellers. Sea level rise may affect low-lying coastal areas with large populations. These negative impacts are undermining long-term development efforts in

Africa, significantly affecting economic growth and bringing new challenges to water and food security.

In Sufficient Water Resources Management

Africa's agricultural water management is insufficient. This is detrimental to a sector that is otherwise in a unique position to deliver pro-poor growth among rural households and to reduce exposure to crises of food prices and availability. With an infrastructure base that is lacking, many economies are extremely vulnerable to hydrological variability. The AfDB's Africa Regional Paper (2009) reported that Africa loses two percent of annual GDP to regular power outages, and between five and 25 percent to droughts and floods in affected countries. This is on top of the five percent already lost to poor coverage of water and sanitation. With climate change threatening to bring a further five percent hit to GDP, measures to adapt to climate change are needed urgently. This exacerbates the already daunting challenge of installing appropriate infrastructure and water management.

Water supply and sanitation, water-related disaster risk and water for agriculture, industry, energy and transport, all must be managed through well designed national and trans-boundary water resources management plans. To realize this, good governance and integrated approaches are essential, which will translate into opportunities to strengthen regional and cross-sector cooperation to improve the efficiency of water resources management. The solution also lies in improving the information and knowledge base in most countries to improve the reliability and quality of data.

Opportunities

Commitments by African Political Leaders

As the continent pursues its water agenda as articulated in the Africa Water Vision, Africa's political leaders have reinvigorated the calls for the delivery of outcomes for those Africans who have not seen the benefits of better water management. Through wide consultation with stakeholders, AMCOW has identified three principal constraints. These constraints are insufficient investment in infrastructure development, deficient institutional capacity and poor uptake of knowledge

The African Union's June 2008 Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, was dedicated to water and sanitation. There, Heads of State made important commitments to accelerate adaptation to improve climate change and variability resilience. African leaders have placed response to Africa's water crisis at the centre-stage of the development agenda.

Support to Water Resources Management

Countries with well-developed water resources management mechanisms are resilient to climate variability and are able to better manage projected adverse impacts of climate change. The Bank has been supporting water and sanitation development in Africa by

building the resilience of these services to climate change, and promoting climate-responsive planning, management and governance of supply options.

The Bank has supported the establishment and strengthening of River Basin Organizations, including the Volta Basin Authority and the African Network of Basin Organizations. This support has come in the form of IWRM capacity building, Shared Vision and Subsidiaries Action Programs for the Nile Basin Initiative, and NEPAD's water infrastructure development in the short and long-term through use of the Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility. The Bank provides considerable, non-lending assistance to African countries and to Regional Economic Communities to build Integrated Water Resources Management capacity and develop appropriate sector policies and strategies. The strategy balances infrastructure and institutional investments. It has also designed a comprehensive water storage and management business plan through 2013.

Improving agricultural and land management practices to strengthen both productivity and resilience to climate changes are issues that Bank projects will continue to address. It will complete this through improving control and management of on-farm water resources, protecting watersheds, and piloting more productive agriculture water technologies such as use of rainwater harvesting for multi-purpose uses.

Multipurpose Water Development (MWD)

Shared water basins in Africa hold tremendous potential for water resource development that can contribute to climate change resilience. Only 7 percent of the potential hydropower in Africa has been developed. Yet, it provides the primary revenue from multi-purpose river regulation and water storage investments and includes other benefits such as agriculture, and flood and drought management. About 36 large dams are currently under construction in Africa and more than 90 are planned. Most target hydropower generation, but many could combine with irrigation, flood control, and water harvesting.

In 2009, the Bank developed an Agricultural Water Business Plan to mobilize investments to increase water storage by at least one percent (additional storage of 8.5 BCM) through the promotion of multipurpose water storage structures for irrigation, flood control and drinking water supply during the period 2010-2013. These new structures would help increase the current irrigated agricultural land of 13.5 million ha to about 14.0 million ha.

The concept of multipurpose water development was introduced to improve the economic feasibility of water storage structure by providing water for different uses. However, regional integration and conflict resolution add a new dimension to MWD as scarce water resources, particularly when they are trans-boundary, generate conflicts.

Supporting Regional Planning and Integration

Cooperation in the management and development of trans-boundary water resources is one of the building blocks of regional integration. In this context, the Bank has integrated trans-boundary water resources development as a pillar of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) in support of the NEPAD programme. Regional and cross-sector adaptation approaches to cope with the negative impacts of climate change have the potential to strengthen regional and cross-sector cooperation to improve the efficiency of water resources management. This cooperative approach can lead to further collaboration and possible joint action, beyond water, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability and integration.

The Bank supports the development of information management systems to inform planning and design adaptation measures. It also promotes broad based dialogue among riparian water basin communities and the development of a common approach for climate adaptation.

III. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

This event will provide an opportunity to discuss: i) the projected adverse impacts of climate change on water resources in Africa; ii) the actions necessary to better manage climate risks and iii) the responsibilities to be undertaken by key stakeholders . Key players will be invited to the roundtable to articulate the rationale for mainstreaming water in climate change, sensitize stakeholders to the rationale as well as to showcase ongoing efforts in the continent.

The event is expected to deliver concrete messages for the high-level roundtable discussion on the Africa Day, including:

- The need to mainstream water in climate change talks
- The need for adaptation and mitigation solutions for Africa's sustainable development
- The need for IWRM and better management of hydro-meteorological information to build a society resilient to climate change
- The need for proactive/strategic approaches to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

IV. KEY QUESTIONS

Panelists will address how to mainstream water in climate change agenda by seeking answers to following questions:

1. What climate change impact on water in Africa are we witnessing now? What's the projected impact in the future based on the scientific findings? What are the consequences of inaction today?

2. How can we urge governments in Africa to proactively manage the adverse and unavoidable effects of climate change through better water resources management?
3. What is needed to mainstream water in climate change discussions (regional and cross-sector partnerships, infrastructure platform, financing etc.)? Is there a good model/example we can follow to better adapt to/mitigate climate change?

V. PANELIST ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MODERATOR

Provides a general overview of the reasons prompting this discussion, the general issues; introduces the panelists, explaining their positions and why their experience is pertinent for this discussion.

PRESENTER

The presenter will provide a presentation on water and climate change in Africa.

PANELISTS

All panelists will react to the presentations based on their professional experience and come to concrete recommendations for policymakers.

10 min.	**Keynote Address**
	Mr. Sering Jallow, Director of Water and Sanitation Department/African Water Facility, African Development Bank
60 min.	**Roundtable Discussion**
	Moderator: ***TBD***
	Panelist: - Mr. Sanusi Abdullahi, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission - Ms. Patience Damptey, Lead UNFCCC Coordinator for Africa on Adaptation, Africa Group of Negotiator - Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Director, GWP - Dr. Alan Miller, Principal Climate Change Specialist. Climate Business Group IFC - Mr. Aly Abou-Sabaa, Chair of the Climate Change Coordination Committee, African Development Bank - Mr. Sering Jallow, Director of Water and Sanitation Department/African Water Facility, African Development Bank
15 min.	**Exchange with audience**
5 min.	**Key Messages from the Event**