



High Level partnership Launched of Africa Climate Solution at COP17

As the United Nations Climate Talks gets to its conclusion this week of the negotiation, a tripartite agreement, on climate change was on Monday 5th December 2011 launched by three Regions Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa aimed at harmonizing programmes approaches in Eastern and Southern Africa. The partnership is with the European Union, Royal Norwegian Government and the United Kingdom.

The partnership involves Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Speaking at the launch of the initiative at a high level side events of the UN Climate talks, COMESA Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya said the COMESA-EAC-SADC Climate Change initiative is "novel that not only occupies a contiguous space on the continent but also have overlapping memberships which stems from the need to harmonise programme approaches among these three regions".

The first flagship programme of the Tripartite is the creation of a grand Free Trade Area from Cape to Cairo, followed by an ambitious infrastructure development programme that will seamlessly interconnect the eastern and southern Africa. The three RECs constitute half the African continent.

Comoros Vice President Fouad Mohadjji who officially launched the initiative said the new partnership is a testimony of the engagement of the countries' partnership.

The vice president is of the view that the partnership will help upscale



agriculture programmes and contribute to the growth of local communities in the three regions.

The main aim of the Tripartite Climate Change initiative is to support the African effort at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to ensure that agriculture is accommodated in a manner that is responsive to the interests of Africa and its people.

Africa has always been about additional

resources, technology and enhanced capacity to enable the continent to adapt to climate change as well as realise its full adaptation and mitigation potential. Capacity building is required for stakeholders in Africa to articulate, mobilise and sustainably implement adaptation and mitigation interventions that benefit the majority of Africans.

As indicated, the tripartite initiative is supported by Norway, EUC and DfID in a multi-donor financial arrangement. It

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African dignitaries have converged in Durban for the second COP on African soil. Above: AfDB President Dr Donald Kaberuka (right) and COMESA SG Sindiso Ngwenya at the Africa Pavillion



initial focus is to up-scale climate smart agriculture among the most vulnerable smallholder farmers many of whom are women.

Europe and the EU Commission teamed up with Africa to come up with a new cooperation arrangement that will support Africa to address the most pressing challenges to food security through the wide adoption of climate smart agriculture; building the capacity of African institutions to handle climate change and lay the foundation for the continent's sustainable and green growth and development.



A sum of US \$20 million will be given to the initiative to undertake programmes that focus on up scaling climate smart agriculture among the most vulnerable smallholder farmers many of who are women for a period of five years.

Speaking at the launch, United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Special Representative on Climate Change John Aston said there is need to rebuild the development model which he says has been broken.



“We are biting much already; we will not have security unless we lay a foundation on the four basic pillars that include water, food, energy and shelter.”, he said. “ Every time I come to Africa I wish that our financiers would come and learn from Africa lessons on resilience We have lost value of resilient” The royal Norwegian govenemnt was represented at the event by Mr Arvin Godgil, deputy minister for environment who immedately announced a a Euro 20 million in support of the programme.

Mr Aston said the partnership will give Africa a voice that has in the past been weak. He said the initiative offers a great opportunity for security and a stronger response to climate change.



And SADC Deputy Secretary General Joao Kaholo said to Africa climate change means drought, flood and loss of productivity due to human activity. “To have this partnership that will support the enhancement of climate change programmes in Africa is commendable,” he said.

The Deputy Secretary General of EAC Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, praised the partnership and thanked COMESA for spearheading the initiative.

Africa demands second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol

AFRICAN ministers from over 50 countries met on Sunday 4th December 2011, at the international Conference center, Durban South Africa. to reinforce their position, demanding an ambitious second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol effective action under the Bali Action Plan and Scaled up finance, ahead of the final week of the UN Climate Conference taking place in Durban.

During the meeting held the ministers discussed the latest science showing severe threats to African food security, developments in the negotiations and a strategy to ensure that the outcomes of the Durban climate conference are comprehensive enough to protect Africans from the worst effects of climate change.

The African Common Position on Climate Change, which was agreed 15-16 September 2011, in Bamako, Mali, highlights key positions that African Ministers will be advancing in Durban at the 'high-level' international ministerial segment of the conference which starts today.

Africa will be hit first and hardest by global climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The continent has contributed the least to climate change, and is among the least equipped to adapt its adverse effects.

More than one billion people in Africa and millions of others living in small islands, least developed and other vulnerable countries will bear the potentially catastrophic effects of land loss, food and water shortage, crop reduction, and flooding.

Ministers will be advancing the African common position including a Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol.

“Developed country Parties to the



COMOROS Island Vice President and Minister of environment was among the African ministers demanding the maintainance of KP

Kyoto Protocol must honour their commitments through ambitious mitigation commitments for a second and subsequent commitment periods. They must reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 40 per cent during the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 and by at least 95 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, as an equitable and appropriate contribution.” SeyniNafo, spokesperson of the African group of negotiators, said.

MrNafo said Africa stresses the urgency of agreeing a second commitment period in Durban and of elaborating measures to avoid a gap between commitment periods.

The African Group also is advancing the Bali Mandate and expects that Durban will conclude the operationalisation of effective and accountable institutions under the Conference of the Parties in relation to, adaptation, technology and finance in accordance with the relevant principles and provisions of the Convention, the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun decisions.

African Group Chair of Climate Negotiators TosiMpanuMpanu, said Africa reaffirms that the two tracks of negotiations under the Convention must continue as separate tracks and that a balanced outcome in Durban must include a second commitment period under the Kyoto

Protocol, and a legally binding outcome on the various pillars of the Bali Action Plan in accordance with the Bali Roadmap.

MrMpanuMpanu said securing necessary climate finance is important for the African Group because it will help the continent deal with adaptation and mitigation programmes to avoid the worst calamities.

African Secretarial of the African MinisterialConferenceontheEnvironment Emily Massawa said African ministers are concerned about the insufficient transparency and slow disbursement of the financial resources pledged by developed countries as “fast start” finance for the period 2010-2012 and indications that a small proportion of these resources are “new and additional”.

MsMassawa said the African Ministers have noted the pledge by developed countries to mobilise jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 and reiterate Africa’s position that developed countries should by the year 2020 provide scaled up financial support based on an assessed scale of contributions that constitutes at least 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of developed countries, in order to curb climate change and meet the needs of developing countries to tackle climate change and its adverse effects,” said.

UK support to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Climate change solution



John Ashton: UK Foreign Secretary Special Rep. on Climate Change

The United Kingdom through DFID is the latest partner to the tripartite Climate Change solution that was launched on Monday 5th December 2011.

The partnership places a priority on increasing the resilience of the poor to climate related changes by scaling up climate resilient farming practices such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry.

The support to the programme will enable evidence-based policy interventions to increase climate resilience, particularly linked to food security, across countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. It will also provide targeted evidenced-based training to small-scale farmers to introduce climate resilient agriculture practices. Demonstration of successful trials and scaled up practices will be used to access climate finance through the leadership of the



Tripartite.

Expected results include: 250,000 small scale farmers using climate resilient agriculture practices; a 10% increase of farmed land in key countries under climate resilient farming systems; a 20% increase in yields amongst trained farmers; at least 10 countries more climate resilient through strengthened assessment and analysis of vulnerability; and US\$300m climate finance leveraged. Donors supporting the Africa Climate Solution are UK, Norway and the EU.