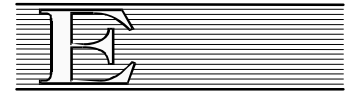




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Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD)

**Report of the "Trade and Environment Training Workshop for SADC and
EAC Member States"**

27 - 29 May 2009, Lusaka, Zambia

I. ATTENDANCE

1. The sub regional Trade and Environment training workshop for experts from Ministries in charge of Trade and Environment from SADC and EAC Member States was held from 27 to 29 May 2009 at Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.
2. This three-day training workshop was attended by 26 participants comprised from 8 ECA member countries, private consultants and ECA staff (see annex for list of participants). The workshop was attended by representatives from countries Burundi, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
3. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a partner of this project, is also represented by a participant.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Opening Address

4. Mr. Dhliwayo Manurwei, Officer-In-Charge, Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) warmly welcomed participants and appreciated their presence on behalf of the UNECA SRO-SA. He started by underlining the fact that, Southern and Eastern African countries are experiencing severe environmental problems brought on or exacerbated by unsustainable production and consumption practices, including: over-exploitation of land and water resources; degradation of forest lands; depletion of forest and other natural resources; desertification; air, water, soil and solid waste pollution and limited fresh water resources. He continued, in this particular context, our trade policies are expected to create an atmosphere where increased trade does not threaten environmental protection measures making sure that economic growth doesn't increase at the expense of the environment but do match with sustainable use of the natural resources. He then underlined the importance of increased environmental protection while boosting up economic development in the region and the need for mainstreaming environment in the national economic development plans. Finally, wishing participants fruitful deliberations, he declared the training workshop officially opened.
5. Mrs. Amal Elbeshbishi from The African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) also made an opening statement. She explained that the African Trade Policy Centre is a project that seeks to help African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their member States to better integrate trade into their development strategies especially through: 1) the identification of policies to diversify production, build export supply capacities and adjust to the economic impact of trade liberalization; 2) improve noticeably African negotiators' skills to better undertake and utilize impact analysis studies to obtain beneficial trade outcomes; 3) improve policy and regulatory capacities of the concerned RECs and their member states to meet the legislative and administrative requirements for complying with international trade rules and to benefit from their flexibilities; 4) better integrate cross-cutting concerns relating to gender, environment and HIV/AIDS into trade policy.

6. The project is not envisaged to have a direct impact on the environment but its outcomes could affect the environment indirectly, with the potential positive effects anticipated to outweigh potential negative effects. For instance research and advocacy of the project will raise awareness on the environmental implications of global trade, with emphasis on international trade agreements, linkages between environmental protection and trade barriers, and impact of trade liberalization on environment and environmental governance in Africa.
7. Unfortunately the understanding and capacity to analyze the complex linkages between trade and environment is very limited in most African countries. This provides a basis for ATPC's work on the environment.
8. ATPC continues to highlight issues of trade and environment in its capacity building activities for RECs and their member States as well as other pan-African trade constituencies. It acts as an advocate for helping Africa meet environmental standards in trade, promote trade in environmentally sustainable goods and create awareness about the complex linkages between trade and environment. ATPC addresses gaps in information and knowledge and build a critical mass of African resources and networks on trade and environment with the purpose of enhancing the pro-active formulation of coherent trade and environment policies for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

B. Agenda Items

9. Mr. Tutu made the briefing by introducing the agenda and programme of work, and then it was unanimously adopted without any amendments. The agenda of the workshop are as follows.
 - Opening of the Workshop
 - Adoption of Provisional Agenda and Programme of Work
 - ATPC II and Cross-Cutting issues
 - Statements from EAC and SADC
 - Trade and Environment Issues and Green Economy
 - Trade and Environment; Overview
 - Trade and Biofuels: Issues and Strategies for Africa
 - Guidelines for Coherent Trade and Environment
 - Organic Agriculture and Market Access
 - Agriculture for Africa's Shift to a Green Economy: Promotion of Organic Agriculture, Policy Options
 - Organic Agriculture Production, Food Security in East Africa and Possible Replication in Rest of Africa
 - Market Access of Organic Agriculture
 - Carbon Markets
 - Natural Resources Exploitation and Sustainable Development
 - Mineral Exploitation and Sustainable Development

- Timber Exploitation, Environment and Conflicts
- Capacity Issues and Networking
- Trade and Environment Committees (Sharing of Experiences)
- Presentation and Adoption of Recommendations of the Workshop
- Evaluation and Closure of the Workshop

C. Summary of Sessions

Session II. Trade and Environment Issues

10. In this session there were three presentations two of them made by Mr. Kwadwo Tutu and the other by Mr. Hamdou Wane, both presenters from UN ECA. The first two presentations were made by Mr. Tutu one on "Overview of Trade and Environment" and the next on "Guidelines for Coherent Trade and Environment".

Presentation: (1) Overview of Trade and Environment

(2) Framework and Guidelines for Coherent Trade and Environment Policies in Africa

11. There is unavoidable linkage that trade has with different dimensions of development like economic growth, social responsibility and environment, and some of the trade related environmental requirements for market access for African countries are worth considering.
12. Beyond the tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers and Standards, such as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures (measures to protect health) as well as Technical Barriers to Trade Agreements (TBT) (balance between trade facilitation and national autonomy), there are environmental requirements that African countries have to meet in international trade. There are also Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) to ensure environmental sustainability of trade in certain products.
13. The Framework and Guidelines for Coherent Trade and Environment Policies in Africa Offers basis for commitment by African member states to the formulation and operationalization of coherent trade and environment policies that includes assuring social stability, maintaining economic growth alleviating poverty and protecting natural resources from degradation and pollution.
14. Underscore the need for public participation in trade and environment policy formulation, and articulate a policy framework for addressing emerging issues. However, first step is to consider traded product/s in following three important areas Production, Processing and Marketing.

Presentation: Trade and Biofuels; Issues and Strategies for Africa

15. Mr. Hamdou Raby Wane from UNECA gave the presentation on "Trade and Biofuels: Issues, Challenges and Strategies for Africa". In the introduction, he defined the notion of

“liquid biofuels”- namely bioethanol and biodiesel, which have been the focus of much of the recent interest in modern biotechnologies. The presentation was organized around the following topics: i) bioenergy in the global context; ii) global market overview and industry trends; iii) the enabling policy landscape; iv) some relevant key policy challenges and strategies for Africa.

16. In the global energy context, bioenergy can be viewed as an opportunity:
 - * to add to the global supply of energy and mitigate some of the recent oil price surge effects in a potentially environmentally friendly and carbon-neutral way for energy supply;
 - * for supply diversification and provision for local needs to countries that are highly dependent on the world oil market for their modern energy despite their endowment of relatively low-cost biofuel crops, such as sugar cane and oil palm;
 - * to provide income and employment to the people and reclaim degraded lands.
17. The associated trade-offs and risks were reviewed – i.e. the economic, environmental, and social impacts that will depend largely on local conditions and on policy frameworks implemented to support bioenergy development. These frameworks relate, at the national level to agricultural and industrial policies and support-sectors policies, and at the international level to trade reform efforts to open markets and promote free trade in agricultural commodities.
18. Then the expansion of bioethanol and biodiesel was reviewed, over the last decade, through the production, trade, investment flows and industry trends with a focus on the main players – USA, Brazil and Europe, and a presentation of the emerging actors in Latin America and in Asia. An emphasis was also put on the promises and actual development of the second-generation biofuels, for which there is a kick-off of commercial investment beyond pilot-scale plants.
19. The presentation showed how this market development has been a policy-driven process worldwide with the design and the implementation of policy tools that combine: mandates for blending biofuels in vehicle fuels; targets and plans for future levels of biofuels use; fuel tax exemptions, tax benefits and production subsidies; sustainability criteria. The dynamic policy landscapes in the main countries’ and regional groupings’ (namely the UE) were presented. A special case was made on Brazil’s success and *modus operandi*.
20. The presentation of the policy challenges and the related strategies focused on production and trade issues and the relevant environmental dimensions. On the production side, the advantages and the disadvantages of potential liquid biofuel feedstock were presented as well the work to be done to determine which crops and crop species are more suitable for different liquid biofuel applications. The key economic, social and environmental *factors to be considered when selecting feedstock* were presented with a double illustration the *UNEP-led Preliminary Assessment of biofuels Feedstock, and the case of Jatropha*, an inedible oilseed usually presented has a highly promising biofuel candidate in Africa.
21. The main trade issues presented were the prevailing subsidies and the standards and the import tariffs applied in the main markets, namely the US and UE. The singular case of the

proliferating technical and sustainability standards was emphasized, and especially their importance for effective market development but also their implication in terms of needs of supplementary economic and institutional capacities. One of the main challenge at the WTO consist in the fact that there is no unique forum to address the issues of biofuels in trade liberalization: should they be considered as *agricultural* goods (case of bioethanol and feedstocks) or as *industrial* goods (case of Biodiesel) or are biofuels *environmental* goods? Facing these challenges to access northern countries markets, there are opportunities to explore capitalizing on proximity to large Southern/regional markets.

22. The promotion of biofuels production and trade by African countries will require the long-term policy support through the design and implementation of strategies that pursue: i) Policy coherence with existing national/ international policies and goals, and coordination across ministries (e.g Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Trade); ii) the promotion of an enabling environment to provide the ‘fundamentals’; iii) the development of regionally integrated biofuels value Chains; iv) the establishment of internationally agreed-upon fuel specifications/labelling systems; iv) the monitoring of international oil, agricultural markets and 2nd generation of biofuels.

Session III. Organic Agriculture and Market Access

Presentation: Agriculture for Africa's Shift to a Green Economy

23. Mr. Asad Naqvi from UNEP gave a presentation on promotion of Organic agriculture and policy options. On his presentation he briefly introduced the Green Economy Initiative, discussed the role that agriculture can play in shift to a green economy and discussed issues, opportunities and options for Africa. He underlined on the importance of evidence based lobbying tool to show how investing to “green” the key economic sectors can stimulate and sustain economies, create decent jobs and help reduce poverty.

Presentation: Organic Agriculture Production and Food Security in East Africa

24. Next to this, a presentation on organic agriculture production and possible replication of successes to the rest of the continent was made by Mr. Naftali Ndugire, a private consultant. He explained about organic agriculture in an African and east African context, challenges and opportunities, at different stages along the value chain including production, processing and marketing and its link to the environment, lessons learned from East Africa and their implications to the rest of Africa.
25. Following are main policy messages put; 1) creating markets tempered with appropriate state support and regulation as an effective instrument to address poverty, livelihood needs and incomes and 2) enhancing producer livelihoods through commercial out-grower schemes or farmer cooperatives which involve commodity chains that integrate microcredit, farmer organization, input provision, quality control, storage, bulking, packaging, transport, etc.

Presentation: Carbon Markets and Africa’s Access

26. Mr. Tutu made a presentation on what Carbon market is and explained the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other carbon trading mechanisms along with opportunities available and challenges posed for Africa. He mentioned, among others, the two main trading devices defined under the Kyoto Protocol: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows countries to offset emissions of Greenhouse gases (GHGs) and Joint Implementation (JI) which allows industrialized countries to do same activities in other industrialized countries. He finally stressed on ways to overcome some of the major barriers and challenges in African participation in carbon trade; awareness creation among all stakeholders, technology transfer, mitigation and adaptation Funds, Capacity building and Increased financial support to the sector.

Session IV. Natural Resources Exploitation and Sustainable Development

27. This session has got two presentations made by Mr. Daniel Twerefou on Mineral Exploitation and Sustainable Development, and Kwadwo Tutu on Timber Exploitation, Environments and Conflicts. The presenters tried to touch key elements in exploitation of key natural resources, minerals and timbers, and the implication for the environment.

Presentation: Mineral Exploitation and Sustainable Development

28. Defining the value chain in mining as locating, valuation, establishing plan, mining, transportation/Treatment, beneficiate/refining, marketing and disinvesting, little has been done to promote this as small scale and traditional mining practices are dominant in Africa. He continued telling 'This low value addition to minerals made the mining sector weak contributor to the national Gross Domestic Product across African countries'.
29. Reiterated the fact that poor handling of mining practices brought small resource based internal conflicts which eventually degenerate into national conflicts and wars in countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia, DRC, Sudan and Nigeria. Last not least, he made some policy recommendations for appropriate mining practice in Africa related to social accountability, environmental soundness, institutional arrangements and handling of those multinational companies to the interest of the local people.

Presentation: Timber Exploitation, Environmental Insecurity and Conflicts in Africa

30. Forest to be an important component of the environment while it acts as either sinks or sources of global carbon and an important contributor to the African economy at large. He stressed the worrying extent of forest clearing and logging for timber production in Africa causing deforestation and damage to the environment. He pointed out that deforestation has led to serious negative results including increased global warming, soil erosion, water scarcity, desertification and biodiversity loss.

31. About 20% of annual green house gas emissions are attributable to this deforestation. The direct and indirect contribution of the timber industry to conflicts in the world and Africa were also stated.
32. Unsustainable logging practices and illegal logging are cited as one of the most important causes of deforestation in Africa while other factors like agriculture and fuel wood can not be underestimated.

Session V. Capacity Issues and Networking

Presentation: Trade and Environment Committees (Sharing of Experiences)

33. Discussion was made on the status of Trade and Environment national committees. It was learnt that few countries have this national committee though not working effectively. However, there are also many countries which didn't establish these committees. Consensus was reached the need to strengthen already existing ones while establishing in those which didn't form yet. In this line, UN ECA agreed to provide technical as well as administrative support in case sought by these member countries.

Presentation: The Way Forward

34. Following a thorough discussion in each session among participants, following recommendations were unanimously adopted by participants of the training workshop.
35. Capacity building assistance provided by international organizations and through bilateral cooperation, is mainly geared towards facilitating negotiations and compliance with WTO rules, and are driven by donor priorities. However, capacity building provided by sub-regional and regional organizations, which mainly comprise information and data sharing and exchange, is not accounted for. In this regard, the role of ATPC and other regional bodies in information sharing is very pertinent.
36. It is imperative to effectively use the available assistance in order to: enhance capacities to appropriately absorb knowledge at the regional level; ensure coordination of the activities of Trade and Environment Ministries; and adequately package and upscale knowledge.
37. More awareness and capacity building support is needed at regional and national levels to catalyze a shift to a Green Economy.
38. The establishment of an information clearing - house at ATPC to facilitate access to, and exchange of information on trade and environment is mandatory.
39. Standards constitute new challenges for trade and there is a clear need for Africa to actively participate in all aspects of negotiations leading to their establishment. Inadequate financial resources and expertise as well as insufficient data and information required to support analysis, are some of the factors affecting Africa's participation in global trade negotiations.

Regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and ECA should support member states in surmounting these problems.

40. Africa's capacity should be enhanced by establishing standards and certification agencies as well as mechanisms that are supportive of facilitating accreditation to recognized bodies.
41. Given the dire consequences that imposition of standards can have on a country's economy, it is important for African countries to establish laboratories with adequate testing facilities and scientific research capacities and capabilities with a view to providing concrete evidence that challenges such measures on time.
42. In addition to conducting cost- benefit analysis of African countries meeting standards of developed countries, the exploration of alternative markets could be undertaken to present policy makers with different policy options that should enable them make informed choices.
43. Strengthening regional cooperation on trade and environment issues as part of a process in moving towards greater economic integration in African countries.
44. Establishing a database of all standards, rules, guidelines and legislations, currently applied in African countries, in the field of trade and environment. This database will be a central component of a interactive website to be created. In addition, the possibility of having regular electronic newsletters and organizing electronic forum should be explored.
45. Raising awareness and enhancing the understanding of the possibilities and challenges that trade and environment issues pose for African countries within the Framework of the WTO multilateral trading system. This should assist policymakers to: 1) Increase their awareness of relevant WTO provisions on trade and environment and 2) Enhance their understanding of specific trade and environment issues that are being discussed in the WTO.
46. Participate effectively in multilateral deliberations in the area of trade and environment, in particular within the WTO.
47. Africa must have its own agenda and improve upon its participation in deliberations of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE).
48. African countries must identify ways to green their trade while at the same time address poverty issues. Furthermore, environmental issues have to be mainstreamed into countries' development policies.
49. The idea of the North using the environment as a means of trade liberalization should be contested by Africa. It should be ensured that ongoing negotiations prioritize poverty reduction and environmental sustainability taking into account the levels of development of African countries.
50. Appropriate policies, legislation and strategies should be put in place at the national, sub-regional and regional levels in order to protect Africa from being used as a dumping ground for wastes from industrialized countries.

51. There is weak participation of African countries in negotiations on trade and environment issues. The weak participation of African countries in meetings of the WTO/CTE and SPS and TBT negotiations indicates that the nexus of trade and environment is not given prominence by African leaders. Trade is still the main focus, thus demonstrating a clear need for awareness raising and advocacy among African leaders regarding the importance of environment issues and the need to allocate more resources to the sector.
52. Africa lacks a functional network of experts and platforms for the promotion of experience sharing and information exchange on trade and environment issues. The establishment of a network of African environmental and trade experts should be given serious thought. The networks should also have sub-regional/RECs levels chapters.
53. Activities to be conducted in establishing and coordinating the regional network could be: defining a work programme, information sharing, defining and setting capacity building schemes, inputting into trade and environmental policies, inputting in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the WTO.
54. Experts from ministries responsible for Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources should also be included in the networks to be established as most of the issues - such as biofuels and water, also fall under their jurisdiction. On the other hand, invite trade experts to meetings on environmental issues relevant to their sector, such as CITES, Bamako Convention.
55. Further explore expansion of organic agriculture within the context of eco-trade and labeling linkages to issues related to bio-safety, GMOs and invasive species
56. Enhancing capacities in policy analysis, programmes formulation and advocacy in the areas of Biofuels, Carbon Markets and Organic Agriculture
57. Tracking down of major decisions arrived at in international and regional meetings that have impacts on Trade and Environment, such as UNGA, UN-CSD, AMCEN, MEA, Conferences of Parties, WB, South-South.
58. Every type of trade can incur implications for the environment. Therefore, we should not limit ourselves to the three topics covered by the workshop, which are organic agriculture, biofuels and timber. For instance, emerging issues such as ‘land grab’ have serious implications that should be explored from a Trade and Environment perspective.
59. Assessing environmental aspects of regional trade agreements: EAC, COMESA, SADC with the aim of promoting and harmonizing T&E policies in the region (COMESA, SADC, etc.)
60. Establishment /rejuvenating of national T&E Committees within the most appropriate institutional settings: Ministries of Environment or Trade and aiming at improving the mainstreaming of inter-linkages in policy making and negotiations and implementation and monitoring of MEAs with trade-related obligations.

61. Enhance political commitment from the highest level, mobilize adequate resources and have an active agenda in support of the activities of the national T&E Committee and
62. Compliance to EIAs requirements in the mining sector is hardly noted and periodical environmental audits are almost an unknown practice. This is mainly due to lack of capacity and of political will. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the National environmental agencies in fulfilling their mission of assessing and auditing the impacts of the mining companies. The same level of effort should also be put in developing the skills of local leaders and ‘watchdogs’ from within the civil society.
63. Labeling/standardization in logging activities and in the mining sector should be promoted by emulating the good practices developed, for instance, in the organic agriculture area. Independent certifying organizations need to be put in place in that perspective.

D. Closure of the Workshop

64. Mrs. Amal Elbeshbishi took the floor for making a final remark on the overall situation of the workshop and the way forward. She illustrated the importance of mainstreaming issues of environment into trade, formulating and negotiating effective trade and environment policies taking into account their linkages, implication for market access, their relationship to multilateral environment agreements and their relevance to national priorities. She iterated the need for creating a continuous link among national experts for information exchange and knowledge sharing on issues of common interest in T&E. She urged the participants for their strong commitment to the effective and productive functioning of the network and the national committees.
65. Mr. Tutu also made a short remark on the importance of building capacity of African experts to the best of the national interests of countries on issues of trade and environment. He reiterated the potential benefit of carbon markets for Africa, which is a little emitter of green gasses as compared to the industrialized world. He thanked participants for their commitment in giving their time and their active participation through the workshop. Wishing them a nice trip back to their home countries, he declared the workshop officially closed.

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