



Economic Commission
for Africa

Africa Climate Advisory BULLETIN

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AFRICAN REGION STATEMENT TO THE 14th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD-14) ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AIR POLLUTION/ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

26-28 October, 2005, UNCC, Addis Ababa

Preamble

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in preparation for the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14), held a Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 October 2005, to review progress on the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) in the African region, pursuant to an earlier declaration of CSD 11, which states, *inter alia*, that “in order to allow effective consideration of regional and subregional inputs throughout the implementation cycle, and to ensure maximum flexibility, (the Commission decides) to invite the regional Commissions, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to consider organizing Regional Implementation Meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and bodies as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.”

The RIM focused on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air/atmosphere pollution, and climate change. An overall review of progress in implementation was undertaken, including the identification of opportunities, challenges and implementation constraints that African countries face in these areas. While the review showed some progress in implementation, it also highlighted the inability of some African countries to meet their goals and targets in these areas. The review considered the concerns of the African UN member States, the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, civil society and business.

The RIM benefited from and appreciated the participation and contribution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The RIM also expressed appreciation for the previous contributions of the Breton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank (AfDB), and urged these Institutions to implement specific activities that would support Africa’s various programmes and plans for meeting internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Development Declaration, the various outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

The RIM reaffirmed that poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and reiterated the commitment of African countries to the JPOI, including paying special attention to SIDS, LDCs, and HIPCs. The meeting affirmed that the achievement of the development goals is contingent upon an enabling international environment premised on the legitimate development priorities of developing countries, that addresses the fundamental challenges of financing for development, globalization, and market access in the sectors of export of interest to them.

The RIM recalled that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country and at the international level, as well as transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems.

It expressed concern that the limited progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, (stemming from the lack of fulfillment by the international community of its implementation commitments made in Rio, Monterey and Johannesburg) may hamper the achievement of sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

The RIM also expressed concern on: i) the limited modern energy production and consumption and the extreme vulnerability to climate change, which critically impairs socio-economic development in Africa; and ii) the inadequate contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to environmental sustainability.

It recognized the important role played by civil society and the private sector, and the need to ensure their full participation in achieving sustainable development. The RIM called for enhanced partnership in the implementation of the JPOI, and invited governments to work together with civil society, major groups and the private sector.

The RIM recalled the commitments that have been made by African countries, including in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). It also reaffirmed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the sustainable development framework for Africa.

1. ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Challenges and Constraints

The meeting identified the following specific challenges and implementation constraints:

- i) Inadequate policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework and limited financial flow for the development and provision of sustainable energy, especially for the poor;
- ii) Low energy production due to largely untapped energy resource potential, particularly renewables;
- iii) Uneven regional availability and distribution of energy resources;
- iv) Underdeveloped transportation, production, transmission and distribution infrastructure, and high up-front energy investment and use costs are barriers to energy access by the urban and rural poor;
- v) Low private sector participation and investment in the energy sector;
- vi) Inadequate access to energy in rural Africa as a result of high cost in production, transmission, distribution and depletion of energy resources;
- vii) Inefficient utilization and wastage of energy;
- viii) High dependence on, and inefficient use of, biomass energy sources and the associated environmental, economic and social impacts, especially on women and children, in a majority of African countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

- ix) Continued high rates of population increase, urbanization, precarious emergence of informal settlements due to migration, and increase pressure on cities to provide sustainable energy due to motorization;
- x) Inadequate skills and education of the rural population holds back their participation in the implementation of energy programmes and projects;
- xi) Lack of empowerment hinders the participation of local governments, regional councils, cities and community level organizations, and reduces the success of many energy projects;
- xii) Supply of inappropriate forms of energy not responsive to the needs of the majority of people; and
- xiii) The overall energy insecurity challenges faced by most SIDS and their associated economic impacts.

Progress and Achievements

The RIM noted the achievements made on various important energy issues in Africa, including the following areas:

a) Energy accessibility for poverty alleviation

- i) Increased recognition that the problem of access to energy in rural Africa requires much more attention, means and renewed commitments by all stakeholders to achieve the MDG;
- ii) Access to affordable and clean energy services for the urban poor largely residing within informal settlements has now become more recognized as an important item of the human settlements agenda;
- iii) Increased country-to-country and city-to-city dialogue and cooperation are taking place on the issue of clean energy access for urban poor;
- iv) Energy access scale-up initiatives led to the design of new energy supply schemes integrating energy services to the development of productive and income generation activities, entrepreneurship, and the promotion of indigenous energy resources;
- v) Off-grid systems, based on renewable energy (RE) have been developed in rural areas of many countries, and validated as an important option to increase energy access;
- vi) Progress was made in capacity development and investments in mini-hydro power systems, with the identification of a large number of mini/micro hydropower potential sites;
- vii) A subregional rural energy programme is well advanced in ECOWAS and SADC countries, with plans to harmonize national policies;
- viii) Institutional and other barriers to the development of small scale and medium scale energy enterprises were identified and approaches for their removal were implemented in some countries; and
- ix) In many countries, small and medium size energy service enterprises were established and a RE market is being developed.

b) Changing patterns of energy consumption and production

- i) In many countries, national capabilities on forestry services and energy agencies for wood energy planning and policy development were enhanced;
- ii) Wood energy statistics and information were improved and promoted as tools for the promotion of sustainable wood energy systems; and
- iii) Various practical actions, ranging from geographical mapping of renewable energy resources, development of energy and energy efficiency service enterprises, to activities aimed at identifying and removing barriers, were undertaken to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

c) Information sharing on cleaner energy technologies

- i) Many network initiatives (e.g. GNESD, REEEP, PCVF, GVEP, etc.) contributed to enhancing knowledge and capacity in many countries on cleaner energy technology options for energy production; and
- ii) Functioning networks for sharing information and knowledge on sustainable transport infrastructure investment, cleaner technologies and air quality management, is established between individuals, institutions and government representatives in many countries.

d) General and crosscutting issues and means of implementation

- i) The UN system and the international community increased their efforts through various mechanisms at international level (e.g. the special office for NEPAD) and at the regional level (e.g. UN regional consultation meeting) to support African countries in implementing NEPAD;
- ii) Financial investments in NEPAD energy projects have increased, and are projected to grow further;
- iii) Internal capacity of several development and commercial banks (e.g. the African Development Bank), and private investors to assess investments in the energy sector was improved;
- iv) Several actions were implemented to strengthen the capacity of energy planners and developers; education and research institutions and Centers of Excellence;
- v) Efforts to increase subregional and regional energy trade were stepped up with the establishment of power pool arrangements in each subregion; and the signing of agreements for cross-border electricity, oil and gas exchange, in the framework of the major regional economic communities; and
- vi) Several actors, including AFREC, made some progress in the collection, management and dissemination of energy information in Africa.

Lessons learned and the way forward

The meeting identified the following lessons, best practices and way forward:

- i) More actions and cooperation should be undertaken for sharing of relevant experiences between the various regions of the world and amongst African countries;
- ii) There is a need to build capacity that is responsive and inclusive of social and environmental factors in investment decisions related to energy projects;
- iii) There is a need for institutional capacity in energy planning, analysis and modeling, using specific national and regional data to inform decision-making and policy development;
- iv) There is a need for increased political will and leadership as well as increased awareness, knowledge and consciousness of African policy and decision makers on emerging and sustainable energy issues to inform better policy and implementation;
- v) There is a need to integrate off-grid systems with the overall national energy systems and implementation strategies;
- vi) Policies, strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks that integrate the specificities of the African energy context, especially in rural areas, should be established by governments to promote adequate and affordable sustainable energy services;
- vii) Measures should be taken by African policy makers to create a legal, regulatory and institutional framework conducive to an attractive national investments climate for domestic and foreign investors;

- viii) Frameworks and incentives should be encouraged, developed and strengthened to promote regional integration of energy projects, programmes and systems;
- ix) International development partners, including the UN, should enhance their financial and technical support for the energy sector in Africa;
- x) Financial flow to the energy sector, to support the implementation of the NEPAD energy initiative should be increased;
- xi) Considering the largely untapped hydropower potential of Africa, and the emphasis put by the NEPAD Energy Action Plan on the development of large hydropower plants, African governments, with the support of the international community should accelerate the development of environmentally and socially balanced hydropower projects in Africa;
- xii) The Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with the support of international partners, should promote subregional and regional energy trade as a catalyst for development in Africa;
- xiii) AFREC should receive more support to accelerate the achievement of energy integration in Africa, through, *inter alia*, the development of up-to-date energy information system, regional and national capacity development on pertinent energy decision-making and planning tools. Member States are urged to ratify and put in place mechanisms to implement the AFREC Convention;
- xiv) In order to improve the share of RE in the African energy mix, African governments should promote energy diversification, and remove barriers for a fairer competition of all energy resources;
- xv) African governments, with the support of the international community, should design and implement urgent appropriate measures in order to modernize and assure energy efficiency of the traditional biomass energy sector so as to reduce the negative impacts of its heavy usage on human health, the environment and on other issues related to the MDGs;
- xvi) National governments, international development partners, regional, and subregional decision makers should view the problem of access to modern energy in rural and peri-urban areas as inseparable from poverty reduction efforts and strategies and take urgent measures to address it in the PRSPs and NSDS in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Declaration;
- xvii) Governments are urged to intensify efforts to decentralize the decision-making process for energy investments and projects, and promote more participation by local governments, regional, communal, and community-based organizations; and
- xviii) All international partners, especially UN organizations, must make more efforts to create coherence, complementarities and effectiveness in developing the African energy sector. This can be achieved in the framework of a collaborative mechanism such as UN-Energy/Africa and other inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

2. AIR POLLUTION AND ATMOSPHERE

Challenges

The RIM identified some challenges to implementation, including the following:

- i) Poor understanding and prediction of the various properties of the atmosphere and affected ecosystems as well as health impacts and their interactions with socio-economic factors;
- ii) Lack of capacity and finance as well as cultural barriers to access and use of environmentally sound energy systems to minimize atmospheric pollution;
- iii) Unsustainable production and consumption practices in industry and transportation sectors;
- iv) Inappropriate land-use policies and poor management of natural resources;
- v) Inadequate compliance with control measures identified within the ambit of the UNFCCC and Montreal Protocol;
- vi) Lack of programmes for and cooperation in systematic observation of air pollution, assessment and exchange of information;
- vii) Poor and inefficient household energy use practices and the associated indoor air pollution; and

viii) Inadequate, under-funded and underdeveloped research infrastructure and skills.

Progress and Achievements

The RIM noted some achievements made by African countries, including the following:

- i) Implementation of the Southern African Fire Atmosphere Research Initiative (SAFARI), whose targets include gathering of data and information on smoke and gases released into the atmosphere by industry, biological sources and the burning of African forests and savannas;
- ii) The International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) supported many regional and global scale studies focusing on emissions from Africa, through its International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) core project;
- iii) An important international project that has benefited Africa is the System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), which establishes and fosters regional networks of collaborating scientists and institutions in developing countries;
- iv) The establishment of a Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station for sub-Saharan Africa which provides measurements for long-term accounting of green house gases and aerosols and the complex atmospheric chemical reactions which determine the depletion, transformation, lifetimes and transport of these gases and particles that contribute to climate change. GAW will contribute to the detection and interpretation of future changes in the chemical composition of the tropical areas within and outside Africa;
- v) Increased adoption of improved woodfuel stoves and inclusion of cleaner energy sources;
- vi) The establishment of AFRICACLEA, a regional network of African urban air pollution experts, and the World Bank's Clean Air Initiative that have contributed to information sharing for policy makers and raising public awareness;
- vii) The launching of Air Pollution Information for Africa (APINA), a network of scientists, policy makers, industry and NGOs, formed to address issues related to air pollution in Southern Africa;
- viii) Introduction of policies, legal frameworks, financial incentives and subsidies demonstrating willingness and commitment by some African countries to deal with the problems of air and atmospheric pollution;
- ix) Increased number of African countries have taken concrete steps to phase out leaded gasoline and are piloting hybrid cars and biofuel in their transport sectors;
- x) Increased adoption of energy efficiency policies, strategies and practices; and
- xi) A number of countries already have developed air pollution data collection and observation capability.

Lessons learned and the way forward

The RIM identified the following key lessons and possible approaches:

- i) There is a need to increase the roles played by government and industry in implementing policies to reduce air and atmospheric pollution, supplemented by the work of civil society, including through the implementation of environmentally sound technologies;
- ii) There is a need to identify means to access finance to enable industry to access state of the art technologies and shift from using second hand and unclean technologies;
- iii) Micro finance institutions are interested in financing cleaner energies and technologies for households and small businesses;
- iv) There is a need to significantly scale-up best practices and tested air pollution reduction and mitigation options in all sectors;
- v) There is a need to scale up data collection and observation capacities and activities;

- vi) While capacity has been built among African scientists through participation in international research initiatives, there is still a need to develop strategies to increase and retain research capacity, skills and infrastructure in the area of air and atmospheric pollution; and
- vii) Localized air pollution projects are not always comprehensive and may sometimes transfer the pollution from one site to another. As such, an integrated and regional approach should be adopted when addressing air pollution issues.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE

Challenges

The RIM identified challenges to mitigation and adaptation to impacts of climate change including:

- i) The high vulnerability, and low capacity to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change by African countries as a result of the low access to technology, high poverty levels, and reliance on rain-fed agriculture;
- ii) The inability amongst the poorest and the most vulnerable, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to develop social, economic and environmental resilience against extreme climate events;
- iii) Inability and inadequate support to African countries to cope with the current climate variability, thereby limiting the capacity to build resilience to impacts of climate change;
- iv) Inadequate integration and implementation of climate change concerns in national development policies and plans and local level programmes;
- v) Operationalization of the Kyoto Protocol as a result of inadequate technical and institutional competence, particularly lack of, and non-operational DNAs in some countries; low awareness and poor competitiveness of African CDM projects due to high transaction costs; complex and stringent approval processes; and
- vi) Low levels of research, scientific capacity and intraregional cooperation on vulnerability, impact, mitigation, adaptation assessment and evaluation.

Progress and Achievements

The meeting noted the achievements by African countries in addressing climate change including:

- a) Implementing obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol
 - i) African countries have ratified and committed themselves to the implementation of the UNFCCC; and more than 60 per cent of African countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol;
 - ii) Initial National Communications have been prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC, with most countries preparing their second national communications; and
 - iii) There has been increased regional cooperation including the development and implementation of the NEPAD initiative on climate change.
- b) Mitigation and adaptation
 - i) Enhanced subregional cooperation and establishment of the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forums (SARCOF) for early warning and improved information sharing to reduce farmer and other vulnerabilities within the SADC subregion;
 - ii) Policy reforms to control environmental degradation e.g. deforestation;

- iii) Establishment and strengthening of policy research institutions (think tanks) such as ACTS (East Africa), ENDA (West Africa), and ZERO (Southern Africa) to respond to climate change related challenges identified by the UNFCCC;
- iv) Establishment, with funding from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), of the Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC) in Nairobi with sub-centres in Niamey, Niger and Harare, Zimbabwe for monitoring, prediction and timely early warning in the region;
- v) Implementation of 11 projects to carry out Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC) and supporting many countries to prepare National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA);
- vi) Implementation of the project on strengthening the capacity of civil society in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC);
- vii) Sixteen African countries have designated national Authorities to approve CDM projects;
- viii) Community Development Carbon Fund projects have been developed in some countries through the World Bank Special Effort for Africa Programme;
- ix) Implementation of 18 Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) projects in some countries;
- x) Development of new, innovative and other technologies and methods to deal with challenges brought about by climate variability and changing climate. These include the use of drought resistant, crop diversification, improved farming technologies, water conservation and harvesting technologies, use of efficient non-polluting energy sources and mosquito nets for malaria control; and
- xi) Many governments have established disaster management centers, with households, communities and civil society organizations having developed a number of coping mechanisms in response to extreme climatic events.

Lessons learned and the way forward

The meeting identified the following key lessons and possible approaches:

- i) Climate change needs to be tackled in an integrated manner and this approach should be promoted at all levels;
- ii) Need for enhanced integration into and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns into national development policy and PRSPS;
- iii) In line with NAPA, there is need to develop human and institutional capacity to promote and aid adaptation to climate change at national and local levels where the vulnerabilities are most pronounced;
- iv) There is need to work with, and build the capacity of, civil society, community based organizations and the private sector to strengthen the social, economic and environmental resilience of vulnerable local communities;
- v) Continued support for research and information collection and dissemination, and strengthening of networking are needed to raise awareness and inform policy formulation, planning, decision-making, investment and action;
- vi) African countries have benefited mainly from capacity-building on the CDM carried out through support programmes and pilot projects, rather than from actual high impact project investments;
- vii) There is, therefore, a need to increase African countries' access to the funds and benefit from the Kyoto Mechanisms and Marrakech Funds by improving technical and institutional competence, establishing and operationalization of DNAs and reducing the high transaction costs and streamlining the approval processes;
- viii) African countries need to identify and mobilize alternative local resources, including introduction of incentives and disincentives for the private sector to invest in and support climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes;
- ix) There is need to build scientific capacity and cooperation to deal with different aspects of climate change;

- x) There is need to enhance support and accelerate implementation of the NEPAD climate change initiative.

4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Challenges and constraints

The meeting identified the following challenges and constraints:

- i) Tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, together with lack of local processing capability hinders market access and perpetuates Africa's condition as exporter of unprocessed raw materials;
- ii) Lack of capacity, a conducive business and policy environment, financial and other support for growth, structural change and economic diversification of the small-scale and informal enterprises which dominate the private sector in Africa;
- iii) Lack of appropriate industrial development strategies to facilitate and maximize the integration of the large-scale industries mainly concentrated in the extractive sector (e.g. oil, gas and minerals) with other sectors of the local economies;
- iv) Infrastructure, energy and water bottlenecks make the transition to sustainable industrialization more difficult;
- v) The management and deployment of local skill base and mix limits exploitation of the potential of knowledge-based industries;
- vi) Limited ability to tap into global production networks, such as participating in offshoring and outsourcing arrangements;
- vii) Limited research and development, innovation, diversification and technology diffusion;
- viii) Lack of a critical mass of companies and institutions willing to cooperate, network and share industrial development knowledge and information in pursuit of sustainable development, worsened by weak industrial associations;
- ix) Limited government capacity to render and facilitate extension services including those related to testing, metrology, certification, quality assurance and accreditation of industrial and MSME development processes;
- x) Due to their preference for sectors with faster returns, such as the services sector, the current banking and investment decisions and practices constrain industrial development of the SMME;
- xi) Inadequate harmonization of laws, regulations, codes and standards at national and subregional level limits factor flows (financial, human, and technical resources) which could help realize economies of scale, establish intraregional synergies and enhance competitiveness; and
- xii) Small local markets, lack of appropriate marketing channels and inadequate exploitation of ICTs, regional trade, cooperation and integration to expand and establish new markets.

Progress and Achievements

The meeting identified the following achievements at country level:

- i) Rural development has been fostered in some countries through the establishment of agro-processing and micro and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs) by facilitating access to finance and technology transfer, capacity-building for growth-oriented and competitive MSMEs development with increased empowerment of women;
- ii) Metrology, standards, certification, testing and quality assurance institutions have been strengthened in some countries;
- iii) There has been progress in provision of energy including the development of renewable energy technologies and implementation of energy efficiency programmes;
- iv) Establishment of National Cleaner Production Centers;

- v) Development of industrial environmental policy, regulation and guidelines including the adoption of corporate social responsibility codes in some countries;
- vi) Establishment of national industrial information networks, capacity-building on information technology and promotion of linkages between R&D institutions and industry; and
- vii) Development of policies for investment promotion and foreign direct investment including the launching of UNIDO-Africa Investment Promotion Network and various other national and subregional investment promotion efforts.

Lessons learned and the way forward

- i) There is need to ensure that chemicals are produced, transported, used and disposed throughout their full life cycle within a sustainable development context that is protective of human health and the environment and including, *inter alia*, compliance with the provisions of Basel, Stockholm and other related Conventions; and the need to enhance implementation of national laws and policy instruments in the context of national environmental management regimes;
- ii) There is a need for broader adoption and implementation by industry of values consistent with corporate social and environmental responsibility, such as those embodied in the Global Compact, and to explore an ISO standard on corporate-social responsibility;
- iii) There is a need to identify gaps in, and enhance, policy integration and institutional coordination including among entities responsible for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at various levels;
- iv) There is need to promote global cooperation and partnerships for the development and implementation of cleaner production processes and adoption of new and safer technologies; and
- v) There is need to develop country specific technical assistance programmes that will respond to the unique needs of each country and region.

5. Conclusion

The RIM reaffirmed the commitment of African countries to taking concrete action to meet Africa's challenges on energy, industrial development atmosphere/air pollution and climate change with a view to achieving sustainable development, through the implementation of the internationally agreed development agreements, including Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the JPOI, and other international Conferences in social, economic and related fields.

It underscored the importance of the political leadership of the African Union structures and, in particular, the pivotal role of NEPAD as the framework for achieving these objectives.

The RIM acknowledged that progress has been made in meeting some of the targets including through the elaboration and implementation of PRSPs and NSDSs, but it concluded that more action is needed, particularly, in putting in place enabling policies and strategies; increasing political will; scientific capacity development, and developing intra and interregional networking and cooperation.

Recognizing the critical need for additional financial and human resources and the importance of partnership, the RIM underscored the need for the mobilization of adequate resources, both internally and externally, and for strengthening of partnership for the implementation of programmes and projects on energy, industrial development, atmosphere/air pollution and climate change.

The RIM recognized and expressed its appreciation for the role played by the United Nations system through its various specialized and intergovernmental agencies and organs; and various international partners and organizations in supporting Africa's efforts and actions in achieving sustainable development.

The RIM also expressed appreciation for the commitments made by the G-8 in support of Africa's sustainable development agenda.

The participants endorsed the outcome of the RIM for presentation as Africa's contribution to the 14th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14), which will be held in New York in May 2006.