



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

# NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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## Cancun agreements raise expectations for COP 17 in South Africa next year

CANCUN, Mexico, December 13, 2010 (ECA) – Last-minute agreements at the just-ended Cancun UN Climate Change Conference have been greeted with enthusiasm by negotiators and participants who now see a real possibility for some kind of a legally binding instrument being adopted in Durban, South Africa next year, according to correspondents of the Information and Communication Service (ICS) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Citing key aspects of the agreements arrived at in the Mexican sea side resort, they say that after the post-Copenhagen pessimism, the mood among negotiators and participants was generally upbeat, heightening expectations for the next conference, COP17 billed for Durban South Africa towards the end of 2011.

The Conference adopted a series of decisions, called the Cancun Agreements, setting governments on the move toward a low-emissions future and support enhanced action on climate change in the developing world.

Most significantly for African countries, the Parties agreed to set up the Green Climate Fund intended to raise and disburse \$100bn a year by 2020 to protect developing countries against climate impacts and assists them with low-carbon development.

The fund would be steered by a board of 24 members chosen evenly from developed and developing nations. It will initially use the World Bank as a trustee - as the US, EU and Japan had demanded - while giving oversight to a new body balanced between developed and developing countries.

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## Food production: hope rises for rivers communities in Nigeria

Rural dwellers now have some reasons to smile. This is because NEPAD has expressed its commitment to increase food productivity by revitalizing the agricultural sector.

Special Assistant to the governor and State Coordinator of NEPAD, Dr Tex Wariboko, said NEPAD was working on involving all sectors of society in farming with a view to

implementing its agricultural action plan by engaging necessary skills and expertise in food production.

The NEPAD Coordinator said the body was currently working on its action plans in infrastructure development, capacity building for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises

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## Cancun agreements...

On the eve of the landmark decision, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh urged the Parties to use at least 60 percent of the fast-track fund meant for financing climate change adaption and mitigation

Speaking at a panel discussion on progress on the Green Fund project, Mr. Janneh argued that since "Africa's ability to deal with impacts of climate change depends essentially on the availability of financial resources, the mobilization of resources for the African Green Fund should be done in a sustainable manner, bearing in mind that it cannot be a one-year affair".

"We want resources that are sustainable. That is why ECA will work closely with the Green Fund through the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) to ensure that it succeeds", Mr. Janneh said. He made it clear that ACPC, a joint programme of the ECA, the AfDB and the AUC has a clear mandate to strengthen capacities in Africa to deal with climate change challenges.

Mr. Janneh led the UNECA delegation to the conference where the newly launched ACPC played a leading role in projecting African institutions represented at the two-week long exhibition at the Cancunmesse grounds. Occupying booth No. 2, ACPC distributed documents and CDs, fliers and post cards on climate change initiatives on the environment, agriculture and sustainable development in Africa.

Source: *Special to ECA*

## Food production...

(SMEs), Agriculture, Education and ICT, and creating partnerships and synergies to involve all sectors of society in raising the living standards of the people.

He disclosed that NEPAD is also dealing

with climate change and pollution as captured in its environmental action plan. The Federal Government needs to pay special attention to the region and provide incentives to discourage the ex-militants from returning to the creeks", he added.

Sources: <http://www.independentngonline.com/DailyIndependent/Article.aspx?id=22647>

## Eminent persons applaud Kenya ahead of second APRM audit

Kenya has been hailed for progress in governance and socio-economic transformation as it prepares for the second peer review of its performance by a panel of eminent African persons next year.

The country was last audited in 2006 under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and would be the first country to undergo a second review by the APRM.

The promulgation of the new constitution, besides recent progress regarding human rights and social development has raised Kenya's stature, according to panellist, Amos Sawyer, Liberia's former president.

He said "Kenya has made great progress in a short while.

"Moreover, the Constitution, sparks hope of the nation's rebirth," Sawyer said, adding the "onus is now on its implementation."

He said disputes and contestations in the process of implementing the law were normal in any democracy, but appealed to Kenyans to ensure the process remains on track.

Source: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/InsidePage.php?id=2000023597&cid=159>

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