



**Workshop on capacity building for enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water (CLEWs) assessments and institutional strengthening in Ethiopia**

17 January 2019

Conference Room 6, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Welcome and opening remarks by Oliver Chinganya, OiC, Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resources Management Division, ECA**

Your Excellency **Dr. Seleshi Bekel**, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ethiopia,

Your Excellency **Dr. Negash Wagesho**, State Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity of Ethiopia,

Distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of **the United Nations Economic Commission**, my own behalf and on behalf of our partners:

- UNDESA – represented here by Mr **Thomas Alfstad** and Ms **Veronique Verbruggen**
- UNDP – represented here by **Ms Tasneem Mirza**
- As well as the project consultant - Mr **Eduardo Zepeda**

to warmly welcome you to this workshop on “**capacity building for enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water (CLEWs) assessments and institutional strengthening in Ethiopia**”

As **UN entities**, it is **our role to support member states with implementation of the SDGs**, leveraging on our respective roles and comparative advantages.

In this regard, we want to **thank H.E. Dr Seleshi Bekele for inviting the UN to support Ethiopia** in its ambitious and transformative **Growth and Transformation Plan** through support for i) **sound institutional arrangements for policy integration**; and ii) **quantitative analytical capacities to assess policy options**.

This capacity building project **was developed by UNDESA, UNDP and ECA in response to this** request, as well as requests from the governments of **Cameroon and Senegal**.

The project **aims to support policy coherence through stronger inter-agency collaboration and coordination**, while **building capacities for integrated assessment methodologies** to address the interlinkages and tradeoffs among policies, goals and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, **thus supporting implementation of the SDGs** in member states.

Indeed, **all the SDGs are interlinked**, but the **nexus between land, energy and water is particularly strong**, especially against a background of **changing climate**.

African countries are **already experiencing catastrophic climate change and variability impacts** in inter-related ways across many sectors - including water, agriculture, energy, ecosystems and infrastructure.

Yet, **African economies are strongly dependent on these climate sensitive sectors** for their development.

Therefore, building **sustainable and resilient economies** in support of Africa's transformation - as encapsulated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (**leave no one behind**) and Africa's bigger Agenda 2063 (**the Africa We Want**) - does require **climate-informed and integrated strategies** and approaches with a focus on the climate, land, energy and water sectors nexus.

The **nexus approach** is also of high importance in relation to **how we support our member States with the implementation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** to climate change under the framework of the **Paris Agreement**.

This is particularly important given that most African countries have **NDC actions related to land, energy and water**, and that the **NDCs of many countries were prepared in a rush and need coherence** in redefining ambition. A nexus approach is thus crucial for efficient and effective **implementation of the Paris Agreement** as well by giving countries the **opportunity to revise their committed actions** in ways that allow for **better use of resources** and indeed higher ambition.

That is why here at the ECA we are **conducting pilot country studies on integrated climate, land, energy and water strategies approach**, and **supporting member states with readiness for NDC implementation and alignment with the SDGs** and national development plans under the framework of our **Africa NDC Hub** hosted at the African Development Bank.

We are also looking at the **climate, energy, food and trade nexus**, especially in view of **the Africa Continental Free Trade Area** – the biggest trading zone in the world when it becomes operational - to assist member States capitalise on climate change and trade to strengthen their economies.

The importance of the nexus approach to **building resilience** cannot be over-emphasised.

Many African countries will be investing **100s of billions of dollars in agriculture, infrastructure, energy and water**, among other sectors over the next few years to close huge deficits. Those **investments could become stranded assets if resilience is not built** into their planning and implementation. This calls for strong integrated approaches.

That is why the ECA, UNDESA and UNDP believe in **promoting the CLEWs project** and **stand ready to support other African countries** beyond Ethiopia, Cameroon and Senegal.

It is our intention by the end of the two-year project time to bring together project teams from the three pilot countries to share experiences and promote regional approaches and cooperation.

In the CLEWs project, a climate, land-use, energy and water systems **integrated assessment, including socio-economic aspects**, will be developed in each of the



three countries within the **framework of improving cooperation among institutions and public administration and integrated whole-of-government approaches**. As such the project will support evidence-based policy-making to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On behalf of our partners, I thank you immensely for coming to share with us your ideas on how we can work together to realise the project goals.

We also thank those of you with whom we have already had bilateral discussions for the rich exchanges we had.

We wish you great deliberations and hope that through this process we will come up with **an impactful project outcome for Ethiopia** in her efforts to implement SDGs actions in support of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

Thank you