



# ADF TODAY

Friday, 15 October 2010

Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa

As COP 16 in Mexico looms.....

## Ping tells Africa to speak as one on climate

By Brenda Zulu

**A**frican Union Commission (AUC) chairperson, Jean Ping has urged Africa to come up with a common position on climate change, and articulate it with one strong voice.

Addressing the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), he said having one position, and everyone sticking to it, will help Africa in its negotiations on climate change.

The continent is negotiating possible compensation from developed countries for damages and losses it is suffering from global warming.

Climate change is principally a result of heavy greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries.

Africa is the least contributor to climate pollution, at just 3.8 percent, and yet suffered the most from its effects.

Ping said having a common position on climate change, and articulating it with one strong voice will help Africa secure a good deal for itself in ongoing talks on global warming.

At the Copenhagen global warming summit last year, developed countries pledged US\$30 billion in compensation to developing countries for climate change between 2010 and 2012, and thereafter US\$100 billion annually from 2020.

Developing nations, including Africa, feel the funds were not enough to finance their adaptation projects and programmes.

They are also unhappy with proposed disbursement modalities of the funds, saying most were drawn out.



African Union Commission Chairperson Jean Ping

It is in view of this, Ping said, that Africa should reach consensus and have a common negotiating position in the ongoing climate talks.

He advised non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are also involved in the negotiations – in most cases on the sidelines – to respect Africa’s views and position on global warming.

At the Copenhagen climate summit, for example, NGOs opposed Africa’s greenhouse gas emission target, and tried to force their own ceiling for the continent. “NGOs should do their work as they should, and not disrupt governments’ work. We saw a lot of disorganization among NGOs,” Ping said, referring to the Copenhagen summit.

## Climate change provides opportunity for green economy - Steiner

By Ochieng’ Ogodo

**T**he shift to a green economy in Africa and elsewhere should not be looked at just as an alternative climate change survival strategy but as a viable window of opportunity to catapult sustainable economic development on the continent, a top United Nations environment expert said on Thursday.

Achim Steiner, United Nations Under-Secretary General, and executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) told a green economy session at the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII) that Africa must weigh its climate change adaptation and mitigation options carefully.

The continent, he said, must move away from programmes that led to destructive developments like deforestation, to those that were sustainable and addressed people’s needs like water, food and soil nutrients.

“Green economy is making the invisible visible,” he said.

“Do we realise the value of eco-system services that we get from the natural resources?” he asked.

The fact of the matter, Steiner noted, is that leaders across the world, especially in Africa, were increasingly beginning to face the challenges of development facing them.

Green economy, he said, was not adding colour, but another core value to ensuring that the current generation does not exploit eco-system resources in a manner that will not leave the coming generation with nothing to depend on.



Achim Steiner

“This is not foreign to Africa and leaders here are beginning to address sustainable development,” said Steiner.

He advocated a change in the way countries measured economic development to include the

economic and social value of eco-system services, not just do so in Gross Domestic Product terms.

“This concept is not new, perhaps it has just reached an umbrella level,” Steiner said.

He cited Ethiopia as example of trailblazers in Africa in fostering a green economy, saying the country had committed to several projects that will ensure it had a carbon free economy by 2015.

Kenya is another country that was moving towards a green economy, with wind and geo-thermal power projects, he said.

He said land degradation and eco-system depletion in Africa had been severe, and that forests and wetlands had been destroyed in the name of, among others, solving landlessness, and fuel supply.

For Africa to prosper, Steiner noted, it must mainstream development of renewable energy as part of its economic development.

“The value of global investments in renewable energy was much more than that of gas, oils and nuclear power put together last year,” he told the Forum.

On agriculture, Steiner said Africa needed to adopt farming practices that did not degrade the eco-system, and avoid mechanized agriculture that affected soil fertility.

Speaking in the same Forum, Benoit Labot, regional technical advisor on Climate Change and Energy at the UNDP, said climate change was a challenge to development, but also an opportunity to develop clean energy programmes.

“We have to change the way we do things about energy. We have to anchor our thoughts on climate change,” he said.

## Mogae says Africa should stay in climate talks

**F**ormer President of Botswana, Festus Mogae has called on African leaders to remain in climate talks despite the negotiations’ disappointing twists and turns.

In an interview with ADF Today, the former leader - who has turned into an environmental crusader - said there was no other way for Africa than to remain in the climate negotiations.

The world is negotiating an internationally-binding treaty on greenhouse gas emissions, but sharp differences have emerged between developed and developing nations on some aspects, especially financing for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The next round of the talks are due in Mexico in December, and Africa hopes to come up with a united position at the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII) ahead of the negotiations.

“Africa mustn’t be frustrated by the lack of progress. It should carry on in the negotiations and push for its interests,” Mogae said.

Like many other prominent African leaders and personalities involved in environmental issues, he called on the continent to come up with a common position on global warming, saying this will help it secure a deal that met its interests in the negotiations.

“We must speak as Africa, not as the Group of 77,” he said, referring to the larger grouping of developing nations in climate talks that includes countries such as China and India.

Mogae said while developing nations generally had the same climate interests, Africa had specific issues that it should push separately, hence the need to speak as a continent.

For instance, while Africa is mainly concerned with adaptation, China - which is a big climate polluter itself - is focussed on technology transfer in the negotiations, he said.

Developed countries have pledged US\$30 billion in climate change assistance to developing nations between 2010 and 2012, and annually US\$100 billion from 2020, but there are worries over its sufficiency and speedy release.



Former President Festus Mogae

### Tips for travelers

- Hours of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia at ECA: 9-12:45, 14-16:30
- Sweet tooth: Bilo’s pastry at the Old ECA building has delicious millefoglie, fruit tarts and tiramisu for less than Br10. Open 8:30-5.
- Top the pastries with a machiatto or espresso from Kaldis, just above Bilo’s.

## Africa needs US\$ 150 billion for climate change - expert

By Ochieng' Ogodo

To avert a climate catastrophe in Africa, a whopping US\$ 150 billion is needed immediately in special drawing rights to finance adaptation, mitigation and technology transfers to the continent, Augustine Njambi, an official of the Pan-Africa Climate Justice, said on Thursday.

Overall, he said the continent required US\$ 400 billion in climate financing, and suggested a fund be created for the purpose.

"We call for a multilateral climate fund to be established," Njambi said.

He said curbing global emissions required technology transfers on a scale never seen before.

"We need a marshal plan for Africa and the earth," he told a plenary session at the Seventh Africa Development Forum (ADF-VII).

Developed countries, in his view, must remove intellectual property rights and pay full incremental costs of technological transfers to Africa and developing countries.

Climate change, Njambi noted, affects all countries, and therefore everyone must be involved in finding a solution.

On climate change negotiations, Njambi said progress made before and after COP 15 in Copenhagen was being undermined by attempts to keep some interested stakeholders out of the talks.

He said the Kyoto Protocol, which is the only legally-binding climate agreement at hand, should continue beyond 2012.

The protocol is due to come to an end in 2012, prompting worries there will still be no other accord to replace it by then.

"We should continue to put pressure on the United States of America to join the Kyoto Protocol or at least to make comparable efforts under the convention," Njambi said.

The developed world, he said, was responsible for climate change and should compensate developing countries which have been worst hit by global warming.

"We therefore support the African Group's position that finance (equivalent to) 2.5 percent of the [developing world's] GNP is required to fund full costs of adapting to climate change," he said.

Dan Ogolla, legal advisor to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change said talks on post- 2012 could appear frustrating, but progress was being made.

"Whereas there has been some element of pessimism about the upcoming COP 16 in Cancun, clarity was beginning to emerge in areas of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfers," he said.

## US urges Africa to stick to Copenhagen Accord

By Brenda Zulu

The United States on Thursday urged Africa to stick to the confines of the broad global warming agreement reached at the climate summit in Denmark last year in ongoing negotiations on climate change.

In a video address to the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), United States special envoy for climate change, Todd Stern said this would help move the negotiations forward.

He said while developed countries should honour commitments to avail financing to developing nations for climate change adaptation and mitigation, the latter should also keep their promises to ensure transparency in handling such aid.

At the summit, developed countries pledged US\$30 billion in climate aid to developing nations between 2010 and 2012, and later US\$100 billion annually from 2020, but insisted on strict transparency in the distribution and administration of the funds.

"No one has more stake in this than the people of Africa. To fulfill the substantial promise of the Copenhagen Accord, we will need to work together to ensure that the current climate change negotiations fairly reflect what our leaders agreed to last year in Copenhagen," Stern said.

Saying he was also speaking on behalf of President Barack Obama, the US environment czar expressed strong support for the ADF VII, and its focus on climate change.

He said the Forum's focus on both global warming and development "brings together two profound challenges that are inextricably linked."

"As we work to craft a global response to these challenges, we must always remember that a climate agreement cannot simply be about limiting carbon emissions but also compliment and promote sustainable low carbon economic development," Stern said.

He said efforts to build sustainable clean energy economies could drive investments and job creation around the world while bringing energy services to hundreds of millions of people.

He said the United States remained committed to achieving sustainable economic development in the world, despite being one of the worst climate polluters.

"Among the core elements of this (Copenhagen) agreement is the financial commitment by donor countries to provide poor countries with an amount approaching US\$30 billion dollars in climate assistance over three years," Stern said.



Todd Stern, US Special Envoy for Climate Change

He noted that Africa was specifically identified in the Accord, and that it was a target region for the assistance.

The United States was firmly committed to contribute, he said.

"In fiscal year 2010, Obama's first budget year, the United States committed more than US\$1.7 billion of both assistance and other financing which includes a tripling of appropriated climate funds of the previous year and a ten-fold increase to adaptation assistance," said Stern.

He explained that a significant portion of the funding was going to Africa, and that the Obama Administration's request to Congress for fiscal year 2011 would increase US assistance to the continent further.

Stern said the United States looked forward to working with Africa to meet climate challenges, and promised Washington's continued active engagement.

## African journalists hone climate change reporting skills



Journalists' training under-way at ECA

The challenges posed by impacts of climate change to ordinary livelihoods in Africa are too acute to deserve the patchy coverage the African media give the phenomenon, some 40 African journalists concluded at the end of the first day of a media training workshop that opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8 October.

Under the theme "Getting it right: Reporting Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa", the training workshop was organized by the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Institute for Train-

ing and Research (UNITAR), in the run-up to the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF) which opened Tuesday.

The theme of ADF VII is "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa" and ADF organizers are counting on the media to play a leading role in both the debates and processes.

The workshop therefore aimed to improve participants' understanding of the issues around climate change and how it impacts Africa, so that they can be better prepared to raise awareness of the international negotiations and how local com-

munities and individuals are affected by the impact of climate change in Africa.

Recognizing the stiff competition climate change stories face for news space from other newspaper sections, and radio/TV programmes, participants were challenged to "think outside the box" to write more compelling stories on what some described as an unfolding disaster for Africa.

In a statement at the opening session, Josué Dioné, director of the ECA's Division for Food Security and Sustainable Development, stressed the need for African journalists to adapt to the vast and increasing glossary of climate change terms and acronyms, conceding that due to the highly scientific nature of climate change science, "some technical issues, such as climate change adaptation, mitigation, finance and technology, require specialized training in order to enhance reportorial skills".

For example, "What do all these mean for sustainable development and people's livelihood? What about the Bali Platform and the Copenhagen

Accord? What is the significance of the two degrees touted in Copenhagen? How close is Copenhagen Accord to the African common position and what are these common positions," he asked.

During the experiences-sharing sessions that followed each presentation, it became evident that climate change specialists and related institutions also need to sharpen their communication approaches and the way they deal with reporters and the media as a whole for maximum impact.

If accurate reporting and good journalism are critical to sound economic policy and good governance, then proper understanding of issues by reporters are essential prerequisites, participants agreed.

Organizers did not expect participants to become climate change experts within three days but they were confident that journalists would write better on these issues, if they understand exactly how climate change is affecting the livelihoods of African countries.

### ADF Today is produced by an independent team of journalists.

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**Photographers:** Antonio Fiorente and Yohannes Zirotti.

**Design, layout and printing:** Publications and Conference Management Section, UNECA.

For the online version of the newspaper go to [www.uneca.org/adfVII](http://www.uneca.org/adfVII)

As adaptation takes centre stage...

## Africa seeks new climate change development strategies

**A**frican Union Commission (AUC) commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Tumusiime Rhoda Peace said on Thursday African countries should integrate climate change in their development strategies.

Speaking in a plenary session at the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), she said African states should also build strong climate change-related linkages, and exploit synergies that might exist.

Peace said Africa should work together to combat global warming, which had wrecked havoc in many countries on the continent, commonly in the form of droughts and flooding.

She highlighted the importance of capacity building and technology transfer in the battle against climate change, saying the two were critical in adaptation especially at community level.

The AUC official also implored African negotiators in ongoing climate talks to strongly articulate the continent's position, and defend its interests.

World leaders are due to meet in Mexico shortly for the latest in a series of talks aimed at reaching an internationally-binding treaty on climate change.

But Peace said Africa should use, in the meantime, whatever local resources were available to adapt to climate change.

"In Africa, we must remain united and try to adapt with our resources," she said.

Speaking at the same forum, Democratic Republic of Congo's Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Jose Endundo said Africa should remain steadfast in its position on climate change, and not shift ground.

He said Africa was not a big contributor to global warming, and therefore had no reason to soften its position in climate talks.

He implored developed countries not to just make climate change assistance pledges to developing nations, but to make good on the promises.

"We must stand on what we agreed. Africa reaffirms its position on a legally-binding agreement under the Kyoto protocol," Endundo said.

He said as a global problem, every view on climate change – including that of marginalized groups such as indigenous people – should be heard and considered in the ongoing negotiations.

## In departure from norm, Nigerian makes radical climate suggestion

**I**n a radical approach to climate change, a senior Nigerian official on Thursday urged Africa to romp up its greenhouse gas emissions to dangerous levels to jolt the developed world into taking the continent's global warming concerns seriously.

Peter Ekweozoh, an assistant director in the Ministry of Science and Technology, said rich countries were at the moment not taking Africa's climate concerns seriously because they were not as gravely affected by global warming as developing nations.

Third world countries accuse developed nations, the main climate polluters, of playing cat and mouse games in current global warming talks, behaviour the Nigerian official said stemmed from the fact rich countries were not as seriously threatened by climate change as Africa.

To forcefully drive home its climate concerns to the West, Ekweozoh – attending the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII) – suggested Africa increase its greenhouse gas emissions to dangerous levels that will force developed nations into being serious and sincere in global warming negotiations.

"Africa is grossly under-utilizing its (greenhouse gas) emission quota. We have the population, we have the natural resources, the human capital and the expertise to catch up with the developed world (in greenhouse gas emission)," he said.

He said Africa already had the technology needed to meet its own greenhouse gas emission quota, and should use it.

He cited China – which put industrial development ahead of climate concerns – as an example of what Africa should do.



Peter Ekweozoh

The Asian country is now one of the world's top climate polluters, but had transformed itself into an economic giant.

"Why can't Africa do the same thing? It is only through this approach that the rest of the world will listen to Africa," Ekweozoh said.

He said there were many benefits of doing this, including economic and social development and employment creation on the continent.

To help realize industrial development, he said African countries should lure back its citizens who had emigrated to developed countries.

He said these had both the capital and expertise to help industrialize the continent.

## Climate Change Meets Policy

**ACP/C**  
African Climate Policy Centre  
[www.uneca.org/acpc](http://www.uneca.org/acpc)



## United, Africa can tackle climate change - Zambia

By Ochieng' Ogodo

**A**frica can achieve self-sufficiency in adaptation and mitigation with a consensual self-driven agenda, **Zambian Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, Grain Malunga, said on Wednesday at the Seventh Africa Development Forum.**

"Africa has demonstrated that all things being equal, Africa is not poor and with a consensual African-driven development agenda, we can be self-reliant," he said.

Malunga said the African Development Bank (ADB) had the knowledge and capacity to support African countries in addressing challenges posed by climate change.

"We cannot over-emphasize the importance of the African Development Bank location in relation to the hosting of part of the fast-track funds that are critical for Africa as this will improve direct access to the funds, increase ownership and appreciation for addressing issues aligned to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa," Malunga said.

While the continent was endowed with natural resources suitable for clean energy generation such as hydropower, it must not stop, however, getting worried about the impacts of climate change.

The phenomenon could, for example, cripple hydropower generation, and constrain efforts to increase energy supply in Africa.

"We therefore need to mitigate and adapt to climate change by conserving our energy through proper catchment management," said Malunga.

Last month he told the United Nations General Assembly that emphasis in MDG attainment should be put on ensuring access to energy.

But for Africa to adapt to the adverse impacts of global warming, Malunga noted capacity building, technological transfers and funding will be crucial.

The ADB, he said, was an important institution that could be of great value in helping the continent address climate change, and its involvement would go a long way in helping people cope.

"We believe that after intensively studying Africa's problems and effectively managing them, we will not be disappointed," he said.

He added: "We therefore hope that Africa Green Fund will provide allocations for mitigation and adaptation in order to finance projects and programmes that contribute to climate change resilience and low carbon."

Reflecting on COP 15 in Copenhagen last year, Malunga said the outcome was disappointing but the funds under the fast track programme should be utilized.

He called on African climate negotiators to keep pushing for a good deal.

# AFRICA: Thinking big on climate change modelling

If African countries had the capacity to do climate change projections, their data could have been fed into the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) assessments for the continent, said Richard Odingo, former vice-chair of the IPCC at one of the discussions ahead of the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII).

The IPCC is still recovering from its controversial warning about the impact of climate change on food production in Africa, cited in its synthesis report. The warning turned out to have been based on a non-peer reviewed academic paper for three North African countries.

The warning said that since most agriculture in Africa is rain-fed, climate change, which is affecting vital rainfall patterns and pushing up temperatures, could halve crop yields in some countries by 2020.

"Africa should think big and do their own climate change modelling to forecast projections," said Odingo, as climatologists and meteorologists brainstormed on measuring climate change at the Forum organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Better climate data will help countries prepare for soaring temperatures and natural events such as droughts, floods and storms set to become more intense and frequent as the impact of climate change unfolds. "There are gaps in our information collection," he said.

Climate modelling initiatives launched in Africa in collaboration with universities in the West were not "good enough", Odingo said.

To assess the impact of climate change, climatological data spanning at least 60 years is required. But countries in Africa have often had to shut down weather stations because of a lack of funds or political strife.

Amadou Gaye, head of the Laboratory of Atmospheric and Ocean Physics at Dakar's University Cheikh Anta Diop, agreed. Gaye, who was one of the authors of the IPCC's last assessment, said it would be easier for Africa to do projections on a large scale than prepare country-specific models. "We could start with that," he said.

## Obstacles

Some experts at the meeting said they lacked money to build capacity to collect and analyse climate data.

Sound climate data was the starting point in developing a climate change model, said Mxolisi Shongwe, Swaziland's national climate change co-ordinator. "And the quality of data varied across the continent," he said.

But there were other stumbling blocks. "And when you have data, often departments within government are unwilling to share the information," he noted.

Any modelling also needs to be validated by an authoritative body to make improvements. "But again few government agencies involved in data collection open themselves up for scrutiny," Shongwe said. He South Africa was an exception on the continent. "All the government sectors [in South Africa] not only share their data but also open themselves up for scrutiny by the academics [climate change experts] at the University of Cape Town."

## Clim-Dev Africa

Gaye said the continent perhaps needed to look to the Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa' (ClimDev Africa), a programme aimed at improving weather



Africa is experiencing rapid deforestation

data analysis, for assistance. The programme was started in 2005.

Recognizing the need to bring Africa on board, the action plan was put together for the continent with the help of the Global Climate Observing System, which in turn is a combined initiative of several UN agencies and the International Council for Science (ICSU). The other sponsors of the Africa plan were UNECA and the African Union Commission.

The programme was officially launched at the Seventh African Development Forum on 13 October. "It is a massive programme. We have had to develop strategy and terms of reference for the staff and then do the recruitment itself," said Josué Dioné of UNECA.

Dioné, who heads the Food Security and Sustainable Development section at UNECA, was one

of the prime movers for Clim-Dev Africa. "It is not that we are not working - we have already put US\$30 million into the regional climate forecasting centres in Africa."

Cim-Dev Africa also helped Africa develop its position at the UN climate change talks.

In a programme spread over 10 years, Clim-Dev Africa will support efforts to establish or upgrade weather observing systems to fill data gaps, expand capacity for analysing and interpreting data, and strengthen existing African climate institutions.

The programme also includes a climate policy centre, which will help governments draw up strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.

The Forum, which is focusing on dealing with climate change for sustainable development, will end on 15 October. - IRIN



Yinka Aderemi

## Keta is a town in southeastern Ghana, on the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean, near the Volta River mouth.

Its double waterfront, once an asset to the main occupations of fishing and fish processing, eroded rapidly. During the 20th century more than half of what had been the area of the town was washed away. Many of Keta's inhabitants moved south along the coast to Dzenukofi. In 1992, the Anlo-Keta Lagoon was placed on the list of Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and in 1999 work began on measures to limit further erosion and to control flooding of the coastal region.

What is being done: Land reclamation from the lagoon in the area of Keta, Vodza and Kedzi, providing areas where housing and businesses can be rebuilt. The project promotes protection of the environment through sustainable use, and fosters socio-economic interaction and growth. For example, there will be added territory for agriculture, and the road/causeway provides and re-opens the way for traffic to neighboring Togo and coastal Ghanaian cities, towns and villages, providing farmers and other businesses in the area access to markets. The new beaches and rubble mound headlands will create protected areas where fishers can launch their canoes, and give a secure home to the shore-based drag-net fishing industry. The flood relief will decrease farmer losses due to flooding of the lagoon, and reclaimed land will provide new areas for the creation of homes, businesses and communities.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/315645/Keta>) and Wikipedia.

# Climate Change Awareness CONCERT

On **Friday 15 October 2010**  
At **6:30 pm**  
Venue **ECA Compound - South Parking**

Has Kimono

Bruklawit Getahun

Jonny Ragga

Abeoasu Shiota

Eric Wainaina

Girum Mezmur

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