



ADF TODAY

Thursday, 14 October 2010

Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa

As world leaders bicker.....

Zenawi warns climate change talks face collapse

By Ochieng' Ogodo and Brenda Zulu

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said on Wednesday upcoming climate change talks in Mexico and South Africa were likely to flop, mainly over disagreements between developing and developed countries.

The premier, who is also the co-ordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, was speaking at the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII).

"My suspicion is that Cancun (at COP 16 in Mexico) and South Africa will be a total flop," he said, blaming this in part on what he called 'a leadership crisis in environmental leadership.'

"We have strange opinions on climate change among the West, whose ideas are myopic and we know that they have personal interests," Zenawi said.

He said Africa's leadership must 'prove' its worth and clinch a good deal for the continent in current climate negotiations.

The Ethiopian premier said there was, at international level, a leadership crisis on environmental issues which was, in part, making it difficult to strike a climate deal.

But African leaders, he said, had made progress in agreeing climate change financing, and expressed optimism the US\$ 100 billion developed countries had pledged in climate adaptation assistance for developing nations would be forthcoming.

Proper carbon pricing, Zenawi noted, was enough for developing nations to alternatively raise US\$ 100 billion.

And here, he said, is where the challenge of leadership lies. He said the developed world had not adequately educated its citizenry about global

warming and as a result they had developed strange altitudes and myopic ideas about climate change.

But the lack of leadership, he said, should not only be seen in the context of failure in negotiation forums. "The inability to stand up (for one's interests) is deficit of leadership," he pointed out.

Praising the United Kingdom and Norway, he said the two countries had gone against some prevailing ideas in Europe to support poor countries to deal with the impact of climate changes.

He said the UK government had massively cut its budget, but kept its aid to developing nations, including that related to climate change, intact.

"It decided not to balance that budget on the back of the poor," Zenawi said.

He said Norway, despite being one of the major carbon emitters, had decided to embark on a path to carbon-free development, and promised developing nations financial assistance for climate adaptation and mitigation.

But taking a swipe at other countries in the West, Zenawi said Africa will not accept to pay for climate crimes other nations had committed.

"We will not accept to pay for crimes of others. That fact is that. We did not create climate change but have paid the highest price... Africa is paying for one of the most heinous crimes it did not commit and the US\$ 100 billion is down payment for reparations," Zenawi decried.

"We will not wait with our hands folded up but we will fight until they pay up," he said.

At the same time, he noted, Africa will be doing a lot internally as there is much the continent can do on her own to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi addressing ADF-VII

The Ethiopian premier also took issue with international financial bodies and bilateral funding institutions for taking too long to deliver money for adaptation and mitigation passing through their hands.

"It took the World Bank one year to deliver money given to Guyana from Norway," he explained. But overall, he said he preferred to deal with financial institutions than bilateral aid agencies.

One of the approaches Africa must follow in its quest for climate justice, Zenawi said, was to talk to people directly in the developed countries, and enlighten them on the impact of global warming on the continent.

"Engaging people in the West in an intelligent fashion (could help). Not all NGOs in these countries are sensible," he said.

To illustrate this viewpoint, Zenawi said some international NGOs opposed Ethiopia's Gibe Three power dam project on River Omo that will generate electricity for both his country and neighboring Kenya.

"We have to educate even those masquerading as environmental protectors when they are not," he said.

Climate change, he noted, had made it difficult and more expensive for Africa to develop.

He said adaptation money has been going to India and China because Africa had no capacity to mess the environment.

"Behind all these seemingly illogical decisions, there is interest which we have to learn to deal with," he told the ADF-VII Forum.

"In Africa we have no option but to go for green development from local resources," he said.

Norway says no climate actions without financing



Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg

Addressing the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), which is dedicated to climate change, he said it will, however, be 'challenging' for developed countries to honour a pledge made at Copenhagen last year to raise US\$100 billion annually to finance climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries.

He said new contributors to the fund, including the private sector must be enlisted to ensure the target is met.

"It will be challenging, but it is possible to reach the US\$100 billion target. To reach this goal, we need a combination of different sources, both new and existing," Stoltenberg said.

"I would in particular mention the issue of carbon pricing. Funding that come from pricing emissions in developed countries are probably the most promising. They both provide incentives for reducing emissions in developed countries and they represent a huge potential source for mobilizing economic resources for climate actions in developing countries," he noted.

But he warned: "Without agreement on climate financing, there will be no agreement on climate actions."

He said a High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing set up by the UN Secretary General, which he co-chairs with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, will submit a report on possible climate financing to the UN Secretary General next month.

But Stoltenberg said the report was not a blueprint on climate financing, and had been compiled after painstaking negotiations to reconcile sharply divergent viewpoints.

"I believe this report represents an important step forward. We have managed to work constructively together to find compromises on many difficult issues," he said.

"We have managed to reconcile different perspectives," he noted.

Stoltenberg said climate change had been most devastating to developing countries, particularly in Africa, and yet these nations were least responsible for global warming.

He called on developed countries not to "leave Africa to deal with the consequences of global warming on its own."

"Global warming is unfair. Poor countries did not cause climate change. Rich countries did, but all countries, rich and poor, will be affected," he said.

"However, it is the most vulnerable, the poorest countries and peoples, those who have contributed the least to climate change who will suffer the most," he noted.

But Stoltenberg said deforestation in Africa and other parts of the developing world was rising, and

threatened to increase their share of greenhouse gas emissions.

He said this needed to be reversed urgently because thriving forests "provide the largest, the fastest and the cheapest cuts in global emissions."

"Deforestation in the developing world contributes about 15 percent of total global emissions, more than all the world's ships, cars, trains and planes together," he said.

"Africa's forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate, with over four million hectares lost each year. Forests are nature's very own carbon capture and storage facility," he added.

But Stoltenberg said Africa needed financial and other assistance to halt and reverse deforestation, and his country was taking the lead in this regard, hosting a conference early this year to mobilize global funding for this effort.

"Developed countries must provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding based on results," he said.

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.

Climate change testing world leadership - Kaberuka

By Ochieng' Ogodo

The ability of world leaders and other stakeholders to reach a deal on climate change will be a true test of their global leadership skills, African Development Bank (ADB) President Donald Kaberuka said on Wednesday.

Addressing the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), he said reaching a deal on climate change required true global leadership.

This, he said, called for open minded, and flexible engagements. "We are suffering and this has been said several times. We alone can't have the solutions and we must ask; how do we get out of this conundrum?" he asked.

He said it was the duty of Africa, which suffered the most from global warming, to make it clear to the world that it was not willing to pay the price for climate change that was caused by the developed world.

"The ability of Africa to continue to make progress rests on the ability of those with power to ensure we get a deal," he said.

Turning to African economies, Kaberuka said one of the major problems facing Africa today was lack of power needed to drive economic growth.

"There has been chronic under-investment in the energy sector in Africa, hence continued poverty and underdevelopment," he said.

He said even in the face of such a fundamental need, there were still some misplaced projects on the continent, citing a pilot scheme in the Sahel region aimed at harnessing power from solar energy for export to Europe.

"Why not do this for Africa first," he asked.



ADB President Donald Kaberuka

Getting a climate change deal, Kaberuka noted, will also be one of the ways of ensuring that Africa realises economic growth

"It is a test of leadership and governance at the international level," he said.

He said Africa did not cause climate change and must not be left to look for its own resources to deal with the adverse impacts of global warming imposed on it by others.

"As an African leader, I am bound to take action within my confines to help in adaptation and mitigation, but we lack resources," he said.

He said Africa was not hostage to international donors, but had a right to demand that those who

are responsible for global warming pay up for mitigation and adaptation.

Africa is responsible for only 3.8 percent of global green house emissions, and yet suffered the most from its effects.

On the question of whether African banking institutions had the capacity to handle climate change financial aid, Kaberuka said there were a few things that needed to be put in place first.

"The donors have the right to demand accountability for their tax payers' (money) but the recipients are also entitled to demand results for its people," he noted

ADB proposes new climate change funding mechanism

By Gabriel Sunday

The African Development Bank (AFDB) has proposed a new climate funding mechanism to help African countries to adapt to global warming.

It wants to create the African Green Fund (AGF) as part of climate change financing arrangements agreed at the Copenhagen global warming summit last year.

At the summit, developed countries pledged to mobilize funding to help developing nations to cope with the effects of global warming, particularly adaptation to climate change.

They promised US\$30 billion in funding between 2010 and 2012, and US\$100 billion annually in climate change-related aid to developing nations by 2020.

The bulk of the aid was to be earmarked for Africa, but there has been insistence that a clear mechanism should be created to administer the funds, to ensure accountability, and that the financing was going to the intended purpose.

It is in view of this that the ADB is proposing the AGF to act as the administrator of the expected funding for climate change adaptation.

Anthony Nyong, an official of the ADB, said the purpose of the AGF would be to receive and manage all climate change adaptation and mitigation resources allocated to Africa from all sources, including the fast-track financing and long term pledges made under the Copenhagen Accord.

He said this will finance projects and programs that contribute to climate resilience and cuts in greenhouse emissions in Africa.

He said that African countries and approved entities will have direct access to funding, including grants, concessionary loans and risk mitigatory instruments to support public and private sector investments in Africa.

"The AGF will provide balanced allocations to both mitigation and adaptation and respond directly to national concerns," Nyong said.

"The hosting and management of the AGF in Africa by the Bank will increase Africa's access to the commitments under the Copenhagen Accord," he said.

He noted: "This increased access will enhance the continent's confidence to contribute to the climate change debate as part of the solution to a global climate change deal."

Nyong said the bank had the capacity, dedication and will-power to play the role, which was critical in the struggle against climate change.

"The proposal for the Bank to host and manage the AGF reflects a careful consideration of the objectives of the proposed fund, as well as the ADB's mission, capacity, and procedures," he said.

The ADB is a significant and committed contributor to development in Africa, established for the specific purpose of spearheading the continent's sustainable economic and social development.

"The design and implementation of the AGF will benefit from the experience that the Bank has acquired in hosting and administering similar special funds that address the needs and specificities of African countries," Nyong said.

He said climate financing in Africa is an enormous responsibility, and is currently far from being met.

He said Africa, so far, has not benefited much from the existing global funds - hence the bank's proposal.

ADF-VII sees ClimDev-Africa launch

...as Africa gears up for green economies...

By Brenda Zulu

Climate Change for Development (ClimDev-Africa), a programme meant to integrate Climate Risk Management (CRM) into pertinent policy and decision-making processes in Africa, was launched on Wednesday at the

ongoing Seventh African Development Forum (ADF VII).

The launch comes two months before world leaders gather in Mexico for the Sixteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Speaking at the launch, African Union Commission (AUC) chairman Jean Ping said ClimDev-Africa will be implemented under the direction of the Joint Secretariat of the AUC, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), with support from a number of other sources.

He said ClimDev-Africa will, at regional and national levels, raise awareness and facilitate actions for the effective mainstreaming of climate change issues into development policies and strategies in Africa.

"We can no longer view climate change as a stand alone issue, we must rather see it as a cross cutting-item that impacts on all sectors of development," he said.

He said that information alone would not lead to the design of effective and robust policies to tackle climate change.

"What we need to stress now is that Africa must acquire a capacity to use this information, not just having it generated by important satellite technologies," said Ping.



He, however, was quick to note that the training of policy-makers and planners on how this information could be used remained a key challenge for all, adding that the AUC would provide the necessary leadership.

Ping also observed that the launch of ClimDev-Africa was relevant as it had taken place at a time when climate change had taken centre stage in global discussions, more especially as it affects sustainable development.

"It has now been accepted that to ensure that Africa remains on the path of sustainable development, and to meet the targets of the Millennium Development Goals in particular, the issues of climate change have to be addressed with added seriousness," he said.

He added that it was also essential to remember that a critical factor that Africa would invariably rely on was the generation of reliable, useful and timely information on climate change and the need to strategize accordingly to prepare member states to cope with growing climate change risks.

"This is where the Climate for Development programme looms into relevance," Ping said.

He said there was need for an improved climate information base for Africa, to equip institutions of governance to strengthen the use of such information in decision making.

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UNFEM calls for gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation

By Brenda Zulu



Jessie Majome, Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Women Affairs

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has called on African countries, development partners, women's groups and the UN system in general to implement a gender-smart climate change adaptation

system which includes technical support for gender mainstreaming.

The call was made on Tuesday by the Social Human Development cluster on Climate Change and Population, Health, Gender and Youth at a

press conference on the outcomes of its meetings.

Tacko Ndiaye, UNIFEM representative to the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said the organization plans to include in its work strengthening women's food production base, access to agricultural services, land, appropriate technologies and agricultural markets.

She explained that in terms of food security, women account for 48% of global agricultural production, and that a large percentage of them were involved in subsistence farming as a form of self-employment.

She said most of the women were small holder subsistence farmers.

Ndiaye said UNIFEM hopes to also address the negative social and economic impacts of climate change on marginalized and vulnerable women's groups, noting that in Africa overall temperatures were about to increase.

She said they also hoped to negotiate for the engagement of women's advocacy platforms in policy forums on climate change, and investment in adaptive technology such as solar power for rural women, through training and access to jobs in green energy sectors.

"Here we are collaborating with an Indian firm on how to provide solar energy to women," said Ndiaye.

She also explained that having access to agricultural technology and training in capacity building will greatly enhance women's farm productivity.

UNIFEM hoped to be the advocate for gender mainstreaming, including in the design, preparation and implementation of national mitigation actions.

In terms of supporting women's groups to access economic opportunities such as paid ecological services on climate change, Ndiaye said they will be assisting women to overcome socio-economic constraints, and take advantage of public policy that enables them to address environmental degradation.

Fungayi Jessie Majome, Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development re-emphasized the need to mainstream gender at all levels when dealing with climate change issues, and also consider issues of population, youth and health as these were intertwined.

"The meeting reminded everyone to mitigate and adapt to climate change while mainstreaming gender, and also considering the centrality of issues such as health, population and youth," said Majome.

Meanwhile, Akila Belembaogou, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative to the African Union Commission (AUC) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), observed that in the face of climate change, it was important for the Convention on the Rights of the Child - which was an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years - to be ratified by all 53 African countries.

She said that it was critical to bring on board youths and women in decision-making processes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and incorporate their views and opinions.

Only this way, she noted, can the efforts succeed, and be of benefit to as many people as possible.

ADB says climate change hampering MDGs

By Gabriel Sunday

An official of the African Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday that without adapting to climate change, it would be difficult for African countries to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Emmanuel Nzabanita, the bank's chief environment officer, said climate change was badly affecting Africa, leaving most countries unable to finance MDG programmes.

He said developed countries should step in, and assist African countries finance climate adaptive projects and programmes.

"Developed nations must come to our aid because the issue of climate change is a serious matter," he said.

He said by 2020, climate change will be costing Africa two per cent of its GDP, large resources that could in normal cases be deployed to meet the MDGs.

Nzabanita said Africa should embrace green economies and technology as part of the fight against global warming.

He said the ADB would encourage and assist African economies to go green.

As part of practical home-grown efforts to combat climate change, and drive home the green message, the leaders of the AU, ADB and ECA planted trees at the United Nations Conference Centre grounds on Wednesday.



ECA Executive Secretary Abdoulaye Jannah



ADB President Donald Kaberuka



AU Chairperson Jean Ping

Photos: Melese

Africa's Position on Climate Change

1 Increase the capability of Africa, LDcs and SIDs to dress adaptation to climate change more effectively, through support to national climate change adaptation programmes such as NAPA and similar country driven adaptation programmes. GEF should set aside more financial resources in the area of adaptation to climate change which should include a special fund for Africa in this regard.

2 Mobilize and provide additional financial resources to Africa for climate friendly technologies to address both the urgent adaptation and mitigation needs of Africa and other developing countries

3 Enhance the participation of Africa in the market based mechanisms to address climate change through demonstration market based project activities, support to the institutional capacity needs and building a critical mass of experts within Africa in the areas of carbon trade and international climate change negotiation skills

4 Provide technical and financial support for Africa to increase energy availability, particularly in the rural areas, energy diversification or and for ensuring energy security for investment promotion in climate change friendly development areas

5 Ensure equal treatment of Africa in addressing climate change by providing financial support and incentives for mitigating CO2 emissions through avoided deforestation and for acting as a global sink of Carbon Dioxide.

6 Restructuring the current global system of participating in market based mechanism terms of CDM within the Kyoto Protocol that has left Africa as a spectator in the whole

process. CDM rules and Procedures are working against Africa unless there is a deliberate move to address the current barriers.

7 Support countries to address the vulnerability to Climate change through support to early warning systems, adaptation needs assessment and adaptation activities

8 Support the development of innovative indigenous and other technologies for both adaptation and mitigation to climate change such as drought resistant crops, crop diversification, improved farming technologies, better irrigation techniques, control of climate related diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

9 Support development of infrastructure resilient to the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, recurrent floods and other impacts of extreme weather events.

10 Support the establishment of climate centers within Africa and cooperative mechanisms (South-North and South-South) in order to address regional specific climate change impacts and adaptation needs

11 Provide technological and financial support to non-SIDS African countries, as well as low lying, land locked and other Africa countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

12 Conduct gender impact analysis to identify gender-specific needs and protection measures related to floods, droughts and other disasters and involve women in all aspects of decision making relating to adaptation and mitigation, including disaster risk reduction and choice of adaptation technologies.

Delegates say adaptation key to beating climate change

Gabriel Sunday

Participants at the on-going Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII), which is running under the theme "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa, on Wednesday said that adaptation was the only way African countries could surmount the negative impact of climate change.

In interviews with ADF Today, they said the continent had resources to make a meaningful start in adapting to global warming.

Dr Felician Kelahama, director, Forestry and Beekeeping in Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, said that adaptation would be the only panacea to climate change.

He said to easily adapt to climate change, the first step for African countries would be to make full use of its abundant land resources.

"Climate change is impacting on Africa severely because most of African resources are land. Without good systems of utilizing our land, adaptation will be very difficult," Kelahama said.

He said forestry resources would ensure, among other things, sustainability and food security, adding that Africa should prioritize local content in its adaptation strategies instead of relying on Western aid.

"As a continent, we need to agree on some issues on climate change. Failure to agree will mean trouble for Africa," he noted.

Joseph Chilengi, president of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union, said what Africa was going through as a result of climate change was not its fault, but it should nonetheless take the lead in addressing the challenges.

He said the continent's climate change-related

problems mainly affected the poor who had neither the means nor the knowledge to solve them.

He said in the interim, Africa should come up with internal mechanisms to generate resources that will respond to climate change.

But he noted that developed countries, the main culprits in causing global warming, should be financially held accountable.

However, Chilengi said the continent will rise to the challenges of climate change, and address the problems.

Guimba Diallo, an engineer in the Ministry of Environment and Sanitization in Mali, said Africa should speak with one voice on issues of climate change, especially in global warming negotiations.

"It has become imperative for all African countries to speak the same language on the issues of climate change," he said.

Kehinde Ojo, director operations at Ronnit Nigeria Limited, appealed to African countries to stop deforestation, adding that climate change was real and its impact was severe.

He, however, said a culture of re-planting trees, to replace ones cut, should be promoted in Africa at grassroots level.

Mildred Mkandla, a delegate from Zimbabwe, said that Africa should develop the capacity of local communities to deal with climate change, noting that people in rural areas did not seem to know what global warming was.

"Africa should carry the local communities along in its effort to combat climate change because the impact of climate change affects the rural poor more," she said.

She said the continent should look 'inward' more for solutions on climate adaptation.

The climate change models are complex - and the gods must be angry

By Mercy Wambui

Listening to the discussions going on at the Seventh African Development Forum on climate change, the often daunting data derived from complex models can sound confusing, if not isolating. Not so, when depicted on moving images.

The gods must be angry, a film by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), depicts the realities of climate change on ordinary Africans. Filmed in Ghana, Chad and Nigeria, the documentary takes a look at some stark reminders of the impact the phenomenon is having on people, who have no idea what is going on – in the words of one fisherman from Keta, Ghana, "the gods must be angry."

"We made this film to confront world leaders and policy makers with the harsh realities of climate change in African countries," says Yinka Adeyemi, a political science graduate from Harvard with years of unbridled passion for communicating complex development issues to policy makers and target audiences.

"Although climate change issues are complex and highly technical, ultimately, it's about how the individual can make sense out of the impact, adapt and survive," he says, and adds: "Our hope is that the film will shift the debate from one of theory to the realm of reality so that appropriate responses can be triggered for the benefit of the Africans yet on board."

Ethiopia's sought after filmmaker, Ermias Woldeamlak (simply known as Ermias) told *ADF Today* that the process of making the film was far more scary. "ADF-VII was around the corner and we had lots of ground to cover and lots of information to digest." A graduate of the

University of Addis Ababa with a degree in English Language and Literature, Ermias' entry into the world of filmmaking was "sort of accidental."

"I was assigned to the Ethiopian Film Corporation as a documentary researcher by the government and then later attended the National Film and Television Institute in Accra to specialize in film directing." This award-winning film-maker who lived through, and later depicted Ethiopia's "Red Terror" regime on film is no stranger to pressure. "The research and shooting was done almost simultaneously."

Asked how the process impacted on him, Ermias says, "Climate Change is often seen as a remote idea. But having seen the ocean's destruction of Keta in Ghana, the visual impact changes you.

Keta, known for its beautiful beaches and lagoon, lies along Ghana's southern shores overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. By 1957, over half of Keta had been eroded by the Atlantic and currently, estimates state that 70% of the Keta that once was lies beneath the Ocean.

"I am not surprised that the fisherman from Keta depicted in the film feels the gods must be angry. We were interested in ordinary people – fishermen, farmers. Just like Keta, the disappearance of Lake Chad is visible and its impact is obvious to ordinary people," says Ermias.

Adeyemi reminisces on the process and says, "It was hard. We had to speak to people who are faced with the realities that we only read about in books; and the fact that we couldn't do anything to help them was even tougher."

He is however, hopeful that within that difficulty there is hope that the film can make a difference towards Cancun and beyond. "I am hopeful that this will be a thought-provoking contribution," he says.

