

Stakeholders say fair trade and communication are key for climate change adaptation and mitigation

ECA Press Release No. 99/2010

CANCUN, Mexico December 6 2010 (ECA) - On the eve of the formal opening of the high-level sessions of the ongoing climate change talks in Cancun, stakeholders and experts have identified fair trade and effective communication as some of the key preconditions for any robust and sustainable adaptation and mitigation initiatives against the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Hannah Reid, researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) on Sunday told the Information and Communication Service of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Cancun that since climate change is a global issue “no segment of the population ought to be left out of the negotiation processes”.

She was speaking on the sidelines of the “Development and Climate Days” of COP16. The Development and Climate Days event has been a feature of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) since COP2 in New Delhi, India, according to Reid.

It is held during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties and organised by IIED in collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Regional and International Networking Group (RING).

She argued that since climate change mostly affects the poor and the vulnerable, “it is their legitimate right to be part of the negotiation processes and we need the media to get this message across”.

“The aim is to raise the profile of climate change as an important global issue. A lot of money is being raised for adaptation and our key concern is to empower local communities so that they are able to access some of these funds, which are in fact, intended for them,” she explained.

In a session on communicating climate change-what knowledge and whose knowledge counts, Mike Shanahan, communication officer at IIED underscored Reid’s point, arguing that “adaptation and mitigation can only happen with effective communication”.

This year’s event focused on supporting the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge by practitioners and researchers from developing countries. Africa was well represented by ECA’s newly established African Climate Change Policy Centre (ACPC) and a number of NGOs from Kenya and Uganda.

The event included sessions on low-carbon growth and development cooperation; community-based institutions and adaptation; adaptation planning and evaluation; financing adaptation and climate-compatible development; communicating climate change; lessons from fair-trade; and climate change and forced migration. It consisted of formal presentations and discussions, providing ample opportunities for networking among scientists and policy-makers on climate change as a development challenge.

Ms Reid expressed satisfaction with the growing public interest in the side event. The Cancun event provided a platform of networking and opportunities to disseminate relevant literature and videos of community based adaptation innovative work from across Africa.

Issued by:

ECA Information and Communication Service
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251 11 5445098

Fax: +251-11-551 03 65

E-mail: ecainfo@uneca.org

Web: www.uneca.org

