

## ECA opens Africa Pavilion side-events, garners support for negotiators' research strategy

Durban, South Africa 29 November 2011 (ECA) – The UN Economic Commission for Africa on Monday launched a series of 12 site-events of the Africa Pavilion with a discussion on the research support strategy for the African Group of Negotiators.

A panel of five, led by Dr. Yacob Mulugetta of the ECA's African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) discussed wide-ranging issues such as fast-start finance under the UN climate convention; stocktaking the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in relation to Africa; recent scientific information regarding impacts of climate change in Africa; and a brief description of three possible pathways for shared vision.

The first speaker, Prof. Doreen Stanbinsky of the College of the Atlantic, who spoke on recent scientific information regarding impacts of climate change in Africa, sounded clear and unequivocal as to the dire consequences of climate change on Africa.

"Recent science shows that from 1980-2008, due to rising global temperatures, global maize and wheat production has already decreased by 3.8 % and 5.5 % respectively", she said.

To make things worse, "at 0.74 degree centigrade warming", she explained, "African farmers and pastoralists are seeing changes in the timing of rains, in the temperatures they and their crops and animals are exposed to, and in the progressive drying of their soils".

"Food production is already threatened by the temperature rise of the last century and the committed warming due to greenhouse gas emissions of the last decades" she decried.

Dr. Payal Parikh, an independent researcher who specialises in the monitoring of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, regretted that Africa and other developing countries had made several concessions to the industrialised nations but got nothing in return.

"Although Africa and other developing countries had negotiating positions calling for strong emission reduction targets, in an effort to make the Kyoto Protocol more palatable to the United States, developing countries made concessions by accepting a weaker target of 5.2% below 1990 levels, permitted the inclusion of carbon sinks and use of flexible mechanisms, most notably the CDM, to meet emission reduction targets", she recalled.

She explained the low share that Africa retains on CDM markets with the fact that few countries on the continent can actually meet the conditions that favour offset markets. CDM "projects hosted in Africa comprise 2.6% of the CDM pipeline and are projected to generate 3.5% of CERs by 2012", she added.

She urged Africa to seriously seek to reflect in its negotiating position that the use of offset is conditional on Annex 1 Parties' acceptance of deep emission reductions that are in line with the latest scientific understanding.

The spokesman of the African Group of Negotiators who also took part in the discussion was impressed with the quality of the different research findings and proposed that a summary of the presentations be made to a full session with the entire Group before COP17 ends.

Dr. Yacob Mulugetta who led the Monday's session sounded upbeat about the decision to take the findings to a full session of African negotiators, saying that this would strengthen the process of co-generation of knowledge.

"If this experiment works, it would be made more systematic and coherent, using a wide range of actors and centres of excellence in Africa; so that in the future, topics for discussions would be defined together and the narrative framed in consultations with all the stakeholder communities", he promised.

In the end, what is important is that African negotiators are constantly kept abreast with the latest knowledge on climate change issues as well as on negotiating positions of different countries and stakeholders even before each COP, according to Mr. Youba Sokona, who also attended the discussion session.

Issued by the Information and Communication Service of ECA

P.O. Box 3001  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Tel: 251 11 5445098  
Fax: +251 11 5510365  
E-mail: [ecainfo@uneca.org](mailto:ecainfo@uneca.org)  
Web: [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org)

### Related Articles

Statement by Mr. Carlos Lopes at the 2nd annual conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (10/20/2012)	Informal consultations on Green Africa wants clear climate finance benchmarks to ensure transparency, accountability(11/29/2011)	Africa will not become the graveyard of the Kyoto Protocol – African Negotiators. (11/29/2011)
Knowledge gap on climate change a major barrier to policy development(9/7/2012)	Qatar to host COP18 - UNFCCC(11/30/2011)	

Energy and Climate Change experts discuss Sustainable Energy for all in Africa(7/11/2012)

Agencies seek partnerships with ECA on climate services delivery(11/30/2011)

ECA to lead roundtable discussions at COP17(11/28/2011)

African Group Calls for More CDM Projects(12/1/2011)

© 2012 Economic Commission for Africa