



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP<sup>C</sup>  
African Climate Policy Centre

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**Proceedings of**

**Ambassadors briefing on**

**Integrating of Climate Information and Climate  
Information Services into Policy and Practices**

*UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa,  
Wednesday 06 December 2017*



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## **1. Introduction**

The African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) held an outreach event on Wednesday 06<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness and appraise representative of African Embassies based in Addis Ababa on importance of Integrating Climate information and climate Information Services in development planning.

The economic development and growth of Africa depend heavily on climate-sensitive sectors and natural resources. Global warming continues to bring about an increase in the costs of adaptation across the continent at an annual average that is estimated to be between 1.5 and 3 per cent of gross domestic product. This phenomenon threatens to undermine the achievement of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the aspirations articulated in Agenda 2063. In order to sustain the growth trajectory of Africa and to build resilience for sustainable development, an enhanced ability to adapt, plan and manage climate-induced risks is required.

The availability of climate information services and the timely use of climate information are critical to maintaining the continent's steady economic growth. Such information contributes to efforts focused on limiting the impact of climate change. The use of relevant climate data and information has the potential to boost agricultural productivity, foster an effective public health environment, enable the deployment of different types of renewable energy technologies, and enhance investments by factoring in climate issues for resilience and sustainability.

## **2. Objective**

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- (a) Heighten awareness in the African diplomatic community of the value and centrality of climate information and climate information services in development planning, programmes and investments;
- (b) Apprise the African diplomatic community of strategies on integrating details more effectively into policies and plans relating to climate information and climate information services;
- (c) Share information on the pivotal role that climate information services have the potential to fulfil, in planning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement.

## **3. Workshop Output**

### **Opening Statements**

Dr. James Murombedzi, Officer in Charge of the Economic Commission for Africa's African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) gave the opening statement. He gave a brief history of the on-going collaborative initiative between ECA, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the African Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) under the framework of the Weather Information and Climate Services (WISER) initiative. Mr. Murombedzi briefed the African ambassadors of the ACPC meeting with the African legislators held last year (2016) on the importance of

mainstreaming climate information services (CIS) into development policy, plans and practices on the African continent, and a follow up training of journalists and climate practitioners in October 2017 noting that Africa needs to develop a strong, scientific understanding of the impacts of the changing weather and climate patterns on its vital sectors and future scenarios to mitigate and adapt to climate risks thus ensuring sustainable development. He underscored that accurate and accessible climate information, for example rainfall and wind information, helps farmers decide not only when to plant and harvest, but when to dry their crops, and when to look out for pests and disease outbreaks that can ruin yields.

Mr. Murombedzi then invited Mr. Stephen Mutimba to give a presentation entitled: Integrating of Climate Information and Climate Information Services into Policy and Practices.

### **Presentation**

The presentation was divided into the following sections:

- Definition and brief analyses of the state of Climate Information /Climate Information Services in Africa and the socio-economic benefit of CIS
- Mandate and Status of climate information and services infrastructure with focus on National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Africa
- Governance of CIS with focus on networking and collaboration with regional and sub-regional entities in providing climate information and services - African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), ICPAC and the Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET). Governance of CIS in Africa
  - Need for Increased budgetary allocation to National Meteorological & Hydrological Services to support socio-economic planning and development,
  - Need to integrate CIS in national development programmes
  - Public Private Partnerships to boost investments in CIS.
- The presentation also dealt on the requirement for the production and delivery of CIS and mainstreaming climate information into legislation.

### **Discussion and Questions**

Presentations was received enthusiastically and stimulated a lot of discussion and questions from participants representing the governments of Guinea, Sudan, Benin, Chad, Nigeria and the Comoros. Discussions and questions focused mainly on:

- a. Clarification on climate change research project's findings carried out in East Africa which the presenter referred to
- b. How to access assistance from regional providers of climate information services such as ICPAC, ACMAD, WMO etc
- c. The need to emphasise and always highlight the human losses caused by climate variability and the failure of African governments to warn and prevent such deaths
- d. Poor performance by African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS)

- e. Role of climate information in resolving natural resource conflicts in various parts of Africa, especially the drylands such as most of Chad.
- f. How to actively engage communities at grass-root level in climate information discourse.

#### 4. Annexes - Programme

TIME	ACTIVITY	Moderator
<b>Wednesday 06 December 2017</b>		
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Arrival of Participants</b>	
10:45-11:00	Introductory remarks, the African Climate Policy Center and purpose of the outreach event, <b>James Murombedzi, Officer in Charge, African Climate Policy Center</b>	Frank Rutabingwa, ECA
11:05 – 12:15	Climate Information and Climate Information Services, <b>Stephen Mutimba</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition and brief analyses of the state of Climate Information /Climate Information Services in Africa and;</li> <li>• Mandate and Status of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Africa</li> <li>• Role of Regional and sub- regional entities in providing climate information and services - African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), ICPAC and the Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)</li> <li>• Socio-economic benefit of climate information services</li> <li>• Governance of CIS in Africa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for Increased budgetary allocation to National Meteorological &amp; Hydrological Services to support socio-economic planning and development,</li> <li>▪ Need to integrate CIS in national development programmes</li> <li>▪ Public Private Partnerships to boost investments in CIS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	James Murombedzi, OIC, ACPC
12:15– 13:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	
13:10 – 13:15	<b>Closing</b>	James Murombedzi. OIC, ACPC

## 5. Participants

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