

IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and What it means for Africa

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released the final version of its Fifth Assessment Report (IPCC 5AR). The reports represent a review, analyses and aggregation of the findings of the latest available scientific literatures in assessing the status of the climate systems as well as the impacts on human and natural systems. How key development sectors and ecosystems are affected by climate change are discussed and some of the response measures and strategies that are currently employed to addressing vulnerability, and adaptation are highlighted including efforts in mitigation and reduction in GHG emissions.

While there are regionally focus chapters, the overarching orientation of the IPCC reports is tailored to provide a global assessment drawing using regional cases and examples from various global regions. Thus, the contextualisation of the IPCC report become strenuous and challenging for regional application of the findings. These raise some pertinent questions what the IPCC assessment really mean for Africa.

Against the above background, alongside the eighth Joint AUC-ECA Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of the Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will take place from 25-31 March 2015 in Addis Ababa, ECA will be organizing a side-event on “**IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and What it means for Africa**”.

The event will strive to shed light on some of the key findings of the IPCC 5AR in triggering public discourse on some of the followings:

1. What does the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report mean for Africa’s development and transformation agenda?
2. Does the Fifth Assessment Report adequately capture Africa specificity and challenges?
3. What are the climate change opportunities revealed by the report for implementing Africa Agenda 2063?

As outcome, the event intends to generate a discussion with bold recommendations and approaches in shaping Africa’s interest within the framework of such future globally led assessments. The identification of the current gaps in the IPCC 5AR in lifting Africa’s cases, and in its utilisation in addressing Africa’s climate peculiarities will be discussed with the proposition of measures to fill these gaps.