

## 2nd Intersessional Meeting on UNCSD: Committing to action-oriented outcomes at Rio+20

*Serge Bounda and Yohanan Ermias Bekele*

The 2nd Intersessional Meeting on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD/Rio+20) was held on December 15th and 16th, in New York, USA. Its purpose was for Member States and major stakeholders to provide the Conference Bureau and Secretariat with guidance on the elaboration of the “zero draft” - highlighting key issues and proposals to be considered; and to discuss the structure and format of this outcome document.

The tone of the meeting was set by Mr. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of Rio+20, who provided his views and guidance on the contents of the “zero draft” document, and highlighted the key issues that appear in the 600+ submissions made. While the meeting was primarily a platform for guidance, it also allowed delegates to reiterate their specific priorities with regards to the finalized document.

Most regional groupings, including Africa and Asia, reached a consensus in support of the ‘Green Economy’, while some Latin American countries encouraged green investment to achieve sustainable development objectives.



*Mr. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of Rio+20  
(Source: www.uncsd2012.org)*

On an institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD), regional groupings, countries and major groups - driven by strategic interests - expressed different views. Many called for the strengthening of UNEP and/or its transformation into a specialized UN agency, while several others suggested that actions concerning the IFSD should

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relate specifically to regions and countries. The idea of replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development with a Council for Sustainable Development also received broad support, and the creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was also endorsed. Issues, such as youth employment and oceans, were also raised by a number of participants.

The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” was brought up by a number of participants. Developing countries addressed this principle and the lack of implementation of sustainable development initiatives due to the unfulfilled pledges and commitments of developed countries. Most member states, especially LDCs, stated that

Rio+20 should be action oriented in its outcomes.

Summarizing the outcomes of the meeting, Mr. Zulang noted the support for: a “zero draft” document focusing on the objectives and two themes set by UNGA Resolution 64/236; a vision for the future and a declaration of renewed political commitment, accompanied, as an annex, by a set of agreed actions - specifying actors, timeframes and means of implementation. Furthermore, Mr. Zulang mentioned the need for accountability in delivering on commitments - whether negotiated or voluntary - highlighting proposals for a compendium of voluntary commitments to accompany the negotiated outcome.

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## COP17 in Durban

*Paolo Mastropietro*

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*“While they develop, we die;  
and why should we accept this?”*

**Karl Hood, Foreign Minister for Grenada**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, was held from November 28th to December 11th - negotiators requiring an additional 36 hours to reach an agreement. The event included the seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP7/MOP).

Bearing in mind that the Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period expires in 2012, much of the Conference revolved around how the international community would collaborate in future to limit the average rise in global temperatures to 2 °C. Previous

UN Climate Change Conferences, such as Copenhagen 2009 and Cancún 2010, yielded mixed results. The conference in Copenhagen was marked by disputes over the transparency of the process, and led to the COP agreeing to “take note” of the Copenhagen Accord - a document which was merely considered a preliminary step towards securing a “better” agreement in the future. In Cancún, the various parties recognised the need for a significant reduction in global emissions to limit the average rise in global temperatures to 2 °C, and the COP finalized arrangements on creating the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was to become the new operating entity of the Convention’s mechanism - expected to manage US\$100 billion per year by 2020.

The Durban Conference once again magnified the contrasting views of the United States, China and India in contrast to those of the European Union and Least



*From left: President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of UN, Prime Minister of Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, and Chairperson Jean Ping of the African Union Commission (Source: African Union Commission)*

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Developed Countries (LDCs). The European Union wished to place its already designed, emission-cutting pledges inside a new legally-binding agreement whereas China and India insisted that only Developed Countries should cut their greenhouse gas emissions, based on the concept of “equity” in development processes. This position was strongly opposed by LDCs and others most vulnerable to climate change, whose perspective can be summarized through the words of Karl Hood, Grenada’s Foreign Minister, who stated: “While they develop, we die.”

The main outcomes of the Conference can be summed up as follows:

- **Extension of the Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto2):** Active from 2013 until at least 2017, Kyoto2 should act as a bridge towards a new global agreement. Although this second phase will apply to the European Union and other industrialised countries, Canada, Japan and Russia have thus far refused to endorse it.
- **New global climate agreement:** An expert working

group will be charged with designing the new global climate agreement which will - for the first time - include all countries. The roadmap scheme, originally proposed by the EU, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Least Developed Countries group (LDCs), will have to be implemented by 2015, if it is to come into effect by 2020.

• **Green Climate Fund:** A management framework was adopted for the Green Climate Fund, although the source of financing remains unclear.

The discussion went on for 36 hours beyond its scheduled close due to a semantic disagreement between the EU and India. The latter’s opposition to the phrase “legally binding” was finally resolved when parties agreed that the arrangement should be given “legal force”. South Africa’s Minister of International Relations, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, concluded the Conference by saying: “We came here with plan A, and we have concluded this meeting with plan A; to save our planet for the future of our children and our grandchildren (...) We have made history”.

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## Africa at COP17

*Milha Desta, Global Water Partnership Liaison Officer to the African Union Commission*

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The Climate Talks came back to Africa, since it was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 6th to the 17th, 2006. The Talks are returning to a continent that is said to bear the brunt of climate change and have been branded the African COP. In recognition of this, African Heads of States decided at the Sixteenth Ordinary Summit in January 2011, that the African Union Commission (AUC) - together with the Republic of South Africa and the African Development Bank - to have an African Pavilion at the Seventeenth Conference of Parties and Seventh Meeting of Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP17/CMP7) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COP17/CMP7 was held in Durban, South Africa, from November 28th to December 12th, at an important juncture in the climate change negotiation process, as it marked the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

The African Pavilion was situated inside the UNFCCC precinct, covering an area of 2000 sq. meters, and hosted numerous African themed events, as well as 50 exhibits from Member Countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Pavilion also included a simulation of an African rain forest over 500 sq. meters, illustrating the diversity and intricacy of this ecosystem. The opening ceremony of the Pavilion took place on November 28th, chaired by Presidents Jacob Zuma of South Africa and Idriss Déby of Chad, and Vice-President Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos of Angola. The three leaders reiterated the importance of the African Pavilion in creating a platform to debate African issues and to promote the African development agenda through roundtable discussions, high-level events, as

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well as the rainforest simulation and other exhibitions.

The pavilion had six overarching themes set by the three organizing institutions: the African Union Commission (Chair of the Advisory Committee of the African Pavilion), the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Chair of the Technical Committee). Roundtables were held on the six themes which included: Adaptation to Climate change in Africa; Water, Climate and Development; Agriculture and Food Security in Africa; REDD+, forests and development across Africa; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management; Low carbon development and energy access for Africa; Climate Finance for Africa. These discussions were instrumental in emphasizing African issues that were pertinent to the negotiations. Apart from the six roundtables, the Pavilion hosted a number of high-level events, including a discussion on “Global Sustainability on a Changing Climate”, organized by the Republic of South Africa, as well as hosting the 3rd Nobel Laureate Symposium on Global Sustainability on December 6th, and attended by numerous high-profile guests.

The high-point of the African Pavilion was Africa Day on December 8th, which marked the end of the Pavilion’s activities. The Africa Day carried two themes Development First for Africa and Financing for Climate Change in Africa. During the opening, Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of AUC welcomed participants, while Prime Minister Meles

Zenawi of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia delivered the opening remarks. In these remarks, he emphasized the need for new technologies to address climate change and also emphasised the need to protect and preserve Africa’s important natural resources and ecosystems, such as the Congo Basin Tropical Rain Forest and Lake Chad. The key-note address of the opening session was made by Lord Nicholas Stern - a British economist and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. Among the many observations he made, was the need for private entrepreneurial assistance in financing and implementing projects. He also mentioned the need to create and implement innovative policies and projects, and to increase national, regional and global investment, particularly in green energy. He also pointed out that there is a need for good governance and leadership in the region, to inspire investor confidence, and improve capital markets.

Following the opening session, a high-level panel discussion took place - moderated by Ms. Lerato Mbele from CNBC Africa - which included: H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, the Forest Economy and the Environment, Republic of Congo; H.E. Mr. Sangare, Minister of Environment, Mali; H.E. Mr. Trevor Andrew Manuel, Co-chair of the Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund; H.E. Dr. Jean Ping; H.E. Dr. Donald Kaberuka,



*Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC during her interview (Source: African Union Commission)*



*From left: Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of AUC and Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science & Technology of Ghana (Source: African Union Commission)*

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President of the African Development Bank; H.E. Mr. Adboulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa; Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and Lord Nicholas Stern. The discussion gravitated around the themes for the day: “Development First in the Context of Climate Change and Climate Finance for Africa”.

The discussion pointed out the increasingly integrated and coordinated manner in which Africa speaks, and praised Africa’s ‘One voice’. Panellists also addressed future opportunities for Africa - which is endowed with

natural resources, such as solar, wind, land and water - stating that Africa needs to make use of its ample natural resources and emerge as a pioneer in the development and use of renewable energies. With regards to climate finance, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) featured prominently. It was said that, although challenging, raising US\$100 billion for the GCF was feasible, and it is expected that innovative sources of finance will come into play.

Overall, the African Pavilion was instrumental in bringing climate change actors together, as well as shedding light and bring out African issues.

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## CAHOSCC met in Addis Ababa to finalize African Common Position on Climate Change

*Yohanan Ermias Bekele and Serge Bounda*

The Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) met on November 16th, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the auspices of the African Union Commission. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and was convened with the aim of considering and taking forward an updated African Common Position on Climate Change to the UNFCCC CoP17/CMP7, which had been endorsed by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in September.

Following the official opening by the Chair, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and an opening speech by Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), the meeting proceeded to a closed session where Ms. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC presented the Commission’s report on Africa’s coordination of climate change negotiations.

During the press conference, which followed the closed session, the Chair of CAHOSCC - along with the Chairperson of the AUC and representatives of Heads of State - announced that after intense discussions and deliberations, parties to the meeting had decided that:

a) Africa supports the report on the Green Climate Fund and now considers the matter settled; and b) In addition to “Plan A”, which is to support the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, a “Plan B” is needed to welcome and support alternative positions, such as the one presented by South Africa.

The Chair of CAHOSCC also announced the adoption by Heads of State and Government, and their representatives, of Africa’s Common position, which would provide guidelines for African negotiators at the UNFCCC Conference in Durban.



*Overview of the conference hall for CAHOSCC*

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## Financing for Climate Change

*Eugene Nkollo Ndongo*

The search for adequate funding mechanisms to respond to climate change in Africa remains a major challenge for the continent - one which needed to be addressed at the UNFCCC CoP17 in Durban, South Africa. On November 17th, at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) held a conference on "Key Climate Financing Issues for Africa at the COP17", which was attended by representatives of the Ethiopian government as well as various international institutions and members of civil society groups based in Addis Ababa.

The conference offered a platform to discuss possible funding options for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in Africa, in light of the fact that Africa does not receive sufficient financial resources from the Global Climate Fund (GCF). As such, participants were given a chance to give valuable input on an African Green

Fund (AfGF), and to highlight the potential role of the African Development Bank in its creation. Finally, in an effort to address the specific effects of climate change on the continent, the conference gave participants the opportunity to revisit the various conceptions of adaptation and mitigation, and discuss the most effective ways of dealing with issues related to climate change. Africa received approximately 12% of the GCF between 2005 and 2009, a relatively small amount, given the continent's insignificant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, and its significant exposure to climate change. As such, it is argued that establishing an AfGF would be instrumental in accessing the GCF, and will require a common African voice beyond the negotiations in Durban.

## UN General Assembly elects new members for UNEP Governing Council

*Mikyeong Won*

On November 17th, the United Nations General Assembly held elections for the UNEP Governing Council (GC), electing 27 members for four years, beginning in 2012. It should be noted that two GC positions from the Asia and Pacific Region are still open.

Established in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution 2997 (XXVII) on December 15th 1972, the 58 members of the UNEP Governing Council are elected on the basis of equitable regional representation, and report to the General Assembly through ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Having begun terms in 2009, half of the Council's members will see their current mandates end in 2013.

The 27 new members of UNEP Governing Council are from (\*re-elected):

- Africa: Congo\*, Egypt, Liberia, Mauritius\*, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Togo
- Asia-Pacific: Bangladesh\*, India\*, Iran\*, Saudi Arabia\*, Thailand
- Eastern Europe :Albania, Georgia, Poland
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Colombia\*, Cuba\*, Ecuador, Mexico\*
- Western Europe and Other States: Israel\*, Italy\*, Netherlands\*, Norway, Spain\* and UK.



## UN institutions strengthening capacity of the African Union: Overview of the 12th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism

Mikyeong Won, Yohanan Ermias Bekele and Rahmatou Boubacar

*“The Conference (Rio+20) is a major opportunity to produce plans for greater economic dynamism, social protection, and the creation of jobs, especially for youth - all while protecting our natural resources.”*

### **Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations**

On November 21st, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro officially opened the 12th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting sought to provide a platform to strengthen the partnership between the UN system and the AU, and was focused on developing a draft work programme, in order to implement the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU (TYCBP-AU).

In her address on behalf of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ms. Migiro stated that the Secretary-General was in full support of the RCM initiative, which aims to build the continent’s capacity to address the challenges and opportunities of development in Africa.

Following Ms. Migiro’s address, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) also delivered his expectations with regards to the draft work programme for the implementation of the TYCBP-AU - which would enhance the AU’s executive capacity - and also stressed the need to strengthen “co-ordination, co-operation and collaboration between the AU and the UN system.”

The RCM consists of nine thematic clusters, such as the Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster, for which UNEP is the coordinator. UNEP is also very active in other clusters, such as that of ‘Science and Technology’, which regroups 13

UN agencies, and focuses on capacity-building, knowledge production and technical innovation.

Moderating a High-Level Panel on capacity-building was UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa, Cheick Sidi Diarra. Dr. Dieynaba Tandian - representing the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), and Mr. Bankole Adeoye - representing the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), made presentations on areas of intervention with regards to capacity-building and development in the strategic framework of the AU. The session addressed several issues, such as aligning capacity-building efforts with the priorities of NEPAD and those of the RECs. The panel also suggested that African countries should develop their resource mobilization capacity through the private sector, so as to enrich external support for socio-economic development.

UNEP is also active in two joint projects among RCM clusters. The first, co-sponsored by UNESCO, UNEP, WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and the ICSU (International Council for Science), is the Global Ocean Observing system (GOOS/ GOOS-Africa), which aims to promote training and capacity-building in Earth observation and operational oceanography in Africa. The second is a project for integrated ecosystem management in Senegal, co-sponsored by UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, IOM and UNIDO, which focuses on the improvement and development of forest ecosystem services (PASEF), by documenting and attempting to understand the effects of change on forest ecosystems.

As co-convenor of the Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster, UNEP presented its main activities, recommendations and outcomes. Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Regional Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA), stressed the need for inter-cluster activities, to address cross-cutting

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issues more effectively. He also highlighted the leading role of the AU in assisting clusters to mobilize the necessary resources and to implement their activities.

Since UNEP has served as co-convener of the cluster since 2009, it was scheduled to hand over the position to the UNFPA. However, since the UNFPA is currently undergoing a transition, and to continue building on UNEP's strong support for Rio+20, members of the cluster requested that UNEP continue its role as co-convener until 2012.

As Rio+20 was a key item on the agenda of the RCM meeting, the ECA - with the support of UNEP - prepared a presentation for the plenary on Rio+20, which was delivered by Mr. Josue Dione, Director of Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the ECA. He highlighted the report and presented Africa's Preparatory Process for Rio+20, reflecting on Africa's common position as well as on the outcomes: of the AU Summit in Malabo, of the AMCEN, and of the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference in Addis Ababa. Mr. Dione stressed the important role of UN agencies in supporting Africa's participation at the UNCSO. With regards to the preparatory process for the UNCSO, the final report recommended that a capacity-building training programme be developed for African negotiators, to help them reflect on and support the continent's common position in the lead up to Rio+20 and beyond.

The 12th RCM-Africa presented several challenges to be addressed to better coordinate and implement the TYCBP-AU, which will be finalized by the end of 2011. Presentations and deliberations throughout the meeting reflected the need for the AUC's leadership in articulating the modalities linking the TYCBP-AU with capacity-building support from partners. Moreover, all clusters recommended mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in their work programmes and business plans to avoid duplicating efforts. To that effect, a meeting of cluster coordinators is scheduled to take place by the end of March 2012, providing an opportunity to consolidate efforts to finalize the TYCBP-AU and more effectively coordinate the RCM-Africa.



*Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations*



*Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to Africa*



*Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Regional Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA)*

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## The First African Trade Forum: “Accelerating Intra-African Trade and Enhancing Africa’s Participation in Global Trade”

*Eugene Nkollo Ndongo*

The First African Trade Forum was held from November 22nd to the 24th, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and focused on “Accelerating Intra-African Trade and Enhancing Africa’s Participation in Global Trade”. It was to serve as a platform for dialogue on Africa’s interrelated trade issues and on ways in which trade can contribute to poverty alleviation on the continent, as well as a framework for participants to assess the progress and constraints of trade in Africa.

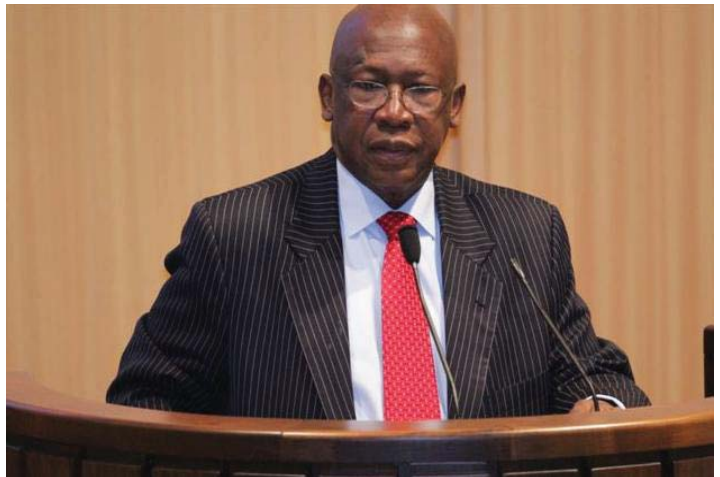
During these discussions, it was noted that African trade accounts for only 3% of global flows, with export rates ranging from 20% to 70%. This could, in part, be explained by generally limited product diversification. For instance, in 1992, Africa was exporting a total of 160 products, while most other countries were exporting almost four times that amount. Today, the quantity and nature of exported products means that they alone cannot support Africa’s economic growth. As such, producing and exporting value-added goods is essential if trade is to effectively benefit the continent.

Instability, non-convertible currencies, and low manufacturing capacity, are among the many challenges that African trade must overcome. The continent’s poor infrastructural networks, for example, not only make trade less efficient, but also contribute to excessive transportation costs within and between countries. The absence of a Free Trade Area (FTA) to facilitate intra-African exchanges, as well as restrictions on the free movement of people, capital, goods and services, remain significant obstacles to improving trade in the region.

As such, African countries now realize that a greater appreciation of the linkages between trade and development is necessary. Throughout deliberations, several solutions to include trade as one of the pillars of development were proposed. Participants suggested creating a Free Trade



*Mr. Erastus Mwencha, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (Source: UNECA)*



*Mr. Abdoulie Jannet, Executive Secretary of UNECA (Source: UNECA)*



*Mr. Jeff Koinange, International Broadcaster, K24TV, Moderator of the forum (Source: UNECA)*

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Area (FTA) to promote and enhance intra-African trade, and increasing competitiveness with diversified earnings and innovations. Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), stressed the need to focus on trade in services, and not just commodities, so as to advance the continent's global trading capacity.

A revision of tariff policies to reduce barriers to trade could raise the potential for growth, and aid in the creation of economic synergies, through regional trade policies that identify idiosyncratic strengths and opportunities. It is therefore essential that African Member States build strong partnerships at regional and continental levels, so that investments may be more effectively directed into sectors that add value to basic goods and commodities.

African States should also commit to providing an environment that is conducive to trade, by implementing democratic governance, developing institutions that

improve access to justice and public administration, as well as by encouraging popular participation and competitiveness. Africa's trade relations with the European Union must also be renegotiated, and should advocate capacity-building for exports, in line with an integrated and flexible African trade policy.

A roadmap is needed to grow and develop intra-African trade, as it may provide a unique opportunity to enhance regional integration and achieve sustainable development objectives. It is for this reason that the outcomes of the first trade forum will serve as important tools for the continent, and may enable it to engage more significantly in the global economy. These may also provide key considerations for African Heads of State and Governments, for the forthcoming AU Summit in January, which will be devoted to "Boosting intra-African trade"

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## African Ministers of Trade met in Ghana to Discuss Intra-African Trade

*Serge Bounda and Yohanan Ermias Bekele*

The 7th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade was held from November 29th to December 3rd, in Accra, Ghana, under the auspices of that country's Ministry of Trade and Industry. The conference was attended by over 200 senior delegates and 20 Ministers, and was convened with the aim of encouraging dialogue between African Ministers of Trade, Multilateral institutions, Inter-governmental Organizations, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations, among others. The conference also gave officials an opportunity to reflect on the upcoming 2012 AU Summit - whose focus will be: "Boosting Intra-African Trade" - for which inputs from the Conference of Ministers of Trade will be considered.

Over the course of five days, Experts and Ministers extensively discussed specific measures and incentives that could enhance intra-African trade. In the final

resolution of the Conference, Ministers recognized that fostering intra-Africa trade had the potential to contribute significantly to sustainable economic development, employment creation and deeper integration in the global economy. Ministers also recommended that Heads of States endorse the "Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade" and committed themselves to establishing a continental Free Trade Area by 2017.

Other topics discussed at the conference include:

- A review of multilateral trade relations;
- A report on the 3rd Global Review on Aid for Trade;
- A draft framework and roadmap for fast-tracking the continental free trade area (CFTA).

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## 2011 UNDP Human Development Report

*Eugene Nkollo Ndongo*

The United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) 2011 Human Development Report (HDR) - entitled: "Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All" - was launched at Addis Ababa University, on November 3rd.

For over three decades, the HDR has been providing an assessment of human development in 187 countries, making use, for instance, of the human development index (HDI) - a comparative measure of human development that considers life expectancy, access to education, and living standards based on income per capita at purchasing power parity. In this report, African countries account for 38 of the 46 countries with the lowest HDI scores - increasing only marginally faster than the two highest brackets since the 1980s.

That being said, countries like Ethiopia are growing very rapidly and show great potential to move into the 'medium human development' bracket. Since 2000, when Ethiopia was, for the first time, covered in HDR, the country

undertook a vast program of reforms that improved literacy rates and Gross National Income, while considerably reducing infant mortality rates. The last assessment of Ethiopia's governance and social policies reveals marked improvements in food security, access to energy, health care and clean water, as well as in infrastructural development.



Despite ranking 174th in the world in terms of HDI, Ethiopia should serve as an example for other African countries that are struggling to find their way to development. This country's progress proves that investment in social development remains key to sustainable development.

## Upcoming Event: 2012 African Union Summit: "Boosting Intra-African Trade" and celebrating UNEP's 40 years

*Yohanan Ermias Bekele*

The 2012 African Union Summit will be held from January 29th to January 30th, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme "Boosting Intra-African Trade". The Summit will be preceded by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee, which will take place January 23rd and 24th. The 20th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministers of Foreign Affairs), is scheduled to take place on January 26th and 27th. Inputs from these two meetings will be submitted to Heads of State and Governments for consideration at the Summit.

The Summit will give African leaders an opportunity to deliberate on some of Africa's most pressing issues with regards to trade within the continent. The choice of the theme is both appropriate and timely, given the challenges facing African trade, and the need to come up with strategies to make trade an effective tool for economic development and poverty eradication on the continent. Other topics to be covered at the Summit

include the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) - for which Heads of State and Government will finalize the continent's common position - as well as the ongoing food crisis in the Horn of Africa.

The Summit will also consider a proposed resolution to recognize the life and work of the late Nobel Peace laureate and Goodwill Ambassador for the Congo Forest, Professor Wangari Maathai, by establishing a "Wangari Maathai Prize" and supporting the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies.

A luncheon for Heads of States and Governments, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of UNEP, will be held in the midst of the Assembly of the Union on January 29th. Hosted by Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, it will mark the launch of a series of events throughout the continent and worldwide, to celebrate 40 years of "Serving People and the Planet".

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## UNEP's analysis on Food Security in the Horn of Africa

Yohanan Ermias Bekele

The UN Environment Programme Global Environmental Alert Service (UNEP-GEAS) recently issued its November Report on “Ecosystem Management and Climate Change”, which provides a detailed analysis of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa. The following text and extracts illustrate some of the key issues and findings raised in the report.

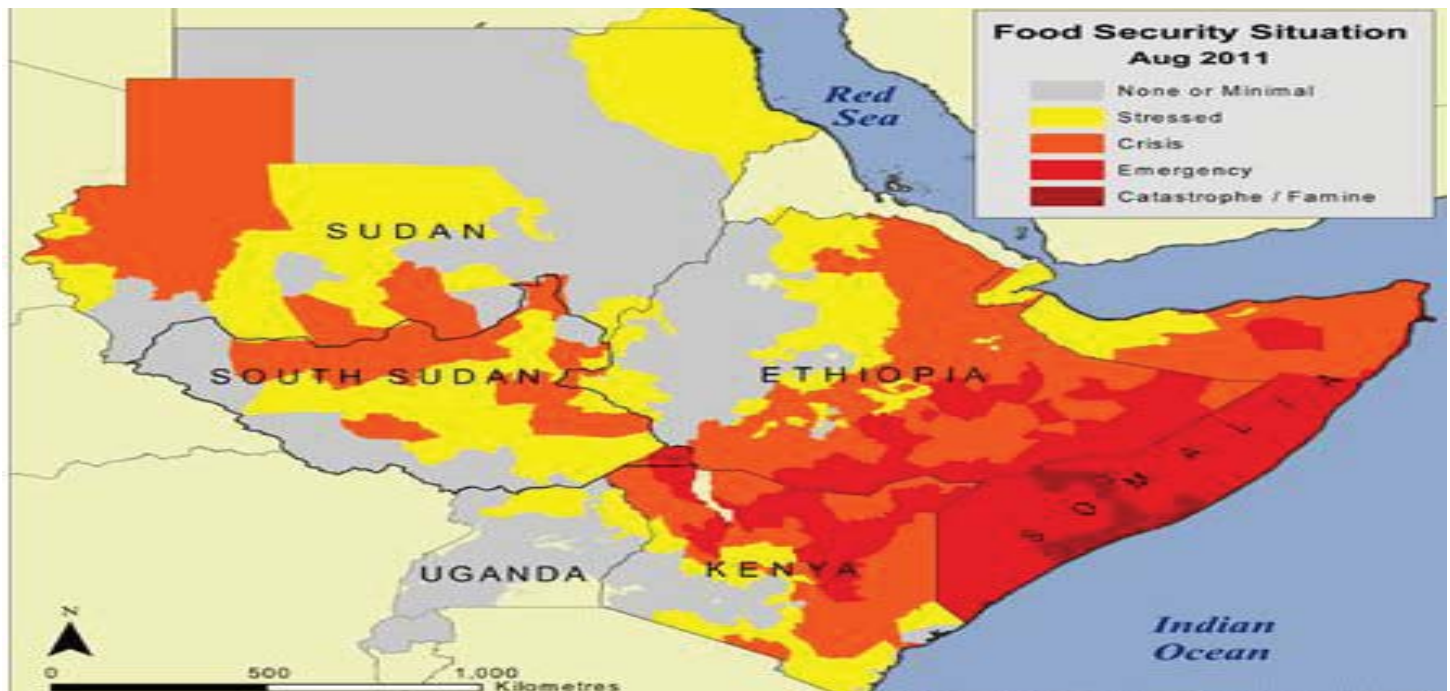
The Horn of Africa is one of the world's most food-insecure regions. The eight countries — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda — have a combined population of 160 million people, 70 million of whom (or nearly 44 per cent) live in areas prone to extreme food shortages. With over 13 million people in need of assistance, the Horn of Africa is currently facing a humanitarian crisis in which tens of thousands of people have already died, half of whom are children.

A variety of factors contribute to food insecurity in the region, including droughts, environmental degradation, poverty, conflicts, population growth, land fragmentation and stagnating agricultural development. Its present vulnerability to climate-related food insecurity was brought into the international spotlight as droughts

intensified throughout the rainy season of 2011. Food shortages, accumulating from consecutive years of droughts, created food emergencies across swaths of the afflicted area - from Darfur in Sudan to southern Somalia, where a famine was declared in August.

There is widespread consensus that climate change will further worsen food security in Africa. While droughts are naturally occurring phenomena in the Horn of Africa, demographic changes, environmental degradation, land fragmentation and conflict, have increased vulnerability and decreased the adaptive capacity of communities - exacerbating threats to household livelihoods.

In the short-term, interventions to improve access to food are critical. In the medium-term, interventions to support and rebuild livelihoods are necessary. In the long-term, however, solutions must include diversifying the food supply and investments in forward-looking, agricultural development.



The Famine Early Warning System classified much of the Horn of Africa as being at some level of food insecurity (Source: USAID/Famine Early Warning System Network, FSNAU)

# Ethiopian Activity



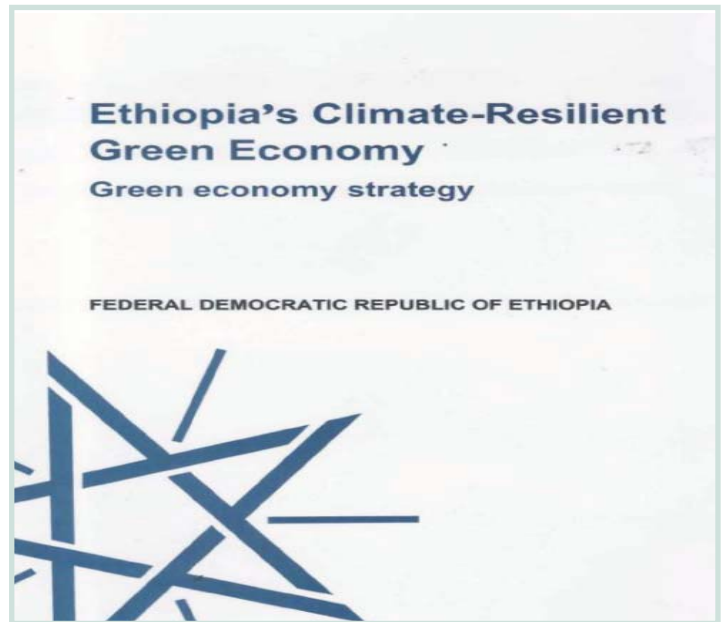
## Ethiopia's ambition to achieve a middle-income country status by 2025 through a climate-resilient green economy

*Mikyeong Won*

The government of Ethiopia hosted the launch of the "Ethiopia Climate Resilient, Green Economy" (CRGE) strategy document on November 18th. The country aims to "achieve a middle-income country status by 2025 through a climate-resilient green economy (zero net-emission)", and consequently, has established a Ministerial Steering Committee - led by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) - to develop the policy framework and ensure the necessary coordination for achieving these goals.

The CRGE was initiated two years ago, to conduct initial studies on current and projected GHG emissions in Ethiopia - together with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and consultants McKinsey & Co. The study indicated that current emissions in Ethiopia are approximately 150 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> (85 % of which come from Forestry and Agriculture) and are projected to rise to 400Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030. The study also estimated that US\$150 billion would be necessary to fund green economy initiatives across sectors, including agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, and industry. Ethiopia announced that there will be a side event to launch the CRGE during Cop17 in Durban and called for further support in climate resilience - the weakest area of the strategy.

The official launch was opened by Dr. Newai Gebreab from the EDRI and Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher



of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and received the attention of the diplomatic community and UN agencies in Addis Ababa. Ambassador Kim of South Korea also delivered his congratulations, while representatives from the AUC, UNDP, UNEP, EU, and the UK also expressed their willingness to cooperate with Ethiopia in implementing the strategy. UNDP in particular, announced that US\$66 billion had been earmarked, while UNEP underlined the linkages between this initiative and the upcoming Rio+20 Conference.



*Dr. Newai Gebre-ab from the EDRI and Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher from the Environmental Protection Authority*

# Ethiopian Activity



## Ethiopian UNDAF Action Plan (2012-2015)

*Netsanet Deneke*

The 'United Nations Development Assistance Framework' (UNDAF) Action Plan validation workshop was held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, on November 23rd. Marking the final stages of the preparation process, its objective was to incorporate inputs and comments, made by the government, into the document, and it allowed UN agencies and the representatives of various Ethiopian ministries, national institutions and NGOs to consolidate their contributions to the final UNDAF Action Plan.

Ato Adamsu Nebebe of the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Development (MoFED) opened the validation session emphasizing that the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) was, by and large, satisfied with this document, which reflects the country's priorities. In his opening comments, Mr. Eugene Owusu, UN Resident Coordinator, thanked the UN agencies, government colleagues and partners

for their efforts in finalizing the UNDAF Action Plan.

The UNDAF Action Plan is broadly divided into four pillars: Sustainable Economic Growth and Risk Reduction; Basic Social Services; Governance and Capacity Development; and Women, Youth and Children. The total estimated budget for the plan is approximately US\$ 2.6 billion, of which only 23% has been secured. The remaining 1.9 billion are yet to be mobilized by the UN agencies.

Over the course of the workshop, the participants provided key inputs to be incorporated in the UNDAF Action Plan. Seen as the end of a very long consultative process, participants urged the UN to concentrate resources on programs that would benefit most from the institution's comparative and competitive advantages.

## Promoting bio-energy projects in Ethiopia

*Paolo Mastropietro*

On November 23rd, at the Siyonat Hotel in Addis Ababa, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Gaia Association organised a workshop entitled: "Fuel from Waste: Demonstrating the Feasibility of Locally Produced Ethanol for Household Cooking in Addis Ababa" - to launch a project funded by the Nordic Climate Facility. The workshop was attended by representatives from the project's partners, such as the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, the Former Women Fuel Wood Carriers Association (FWFCA), as well as by the Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopian NGOs and UN Agencies.

The project seeks to contribute to poverty reduction and climate mitigation by enabling households to access clean, safe, renewable and locally produced cooking fuel as a substitute to the use of traditional biomass. The pilot distillery will be run by a local women's cooperative, associated with the FWFCA, and will produce ethanol from collected fruit and vegetable waste. Stoves for

the biofuel will initially be distributed by Gaia, in the hope of ultimately involving local communities in their production, so as to enhance both the sustainability and socioeconomic value of the project. This project is aimed at the urban and peri-urban population of Addis Ababa.



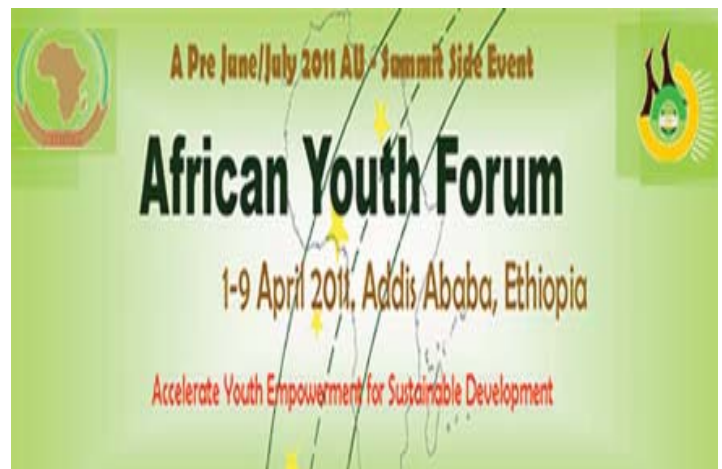
*Panelists of the Workshop*

# 2011 Year in Review



**January:**  
16th African Union Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**February:** UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Nairobi, Kenya



**March:** Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**April:** African Youth Forum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**May:** IISD African Consultation on International Environmental Governance, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**June:** World Environment Day: High-level Round Table on Forests, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

# 2011 Year in Review



**July:** Roundtable on Rio+20 at 17th African Union Summit, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea



**August:** African Union Pledging Conference on the Crisis of Horn of Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**September:** African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Bamako, Mali



**October:** Africa Regional Preparatory Conference to Rio+20, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**November:** 12th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

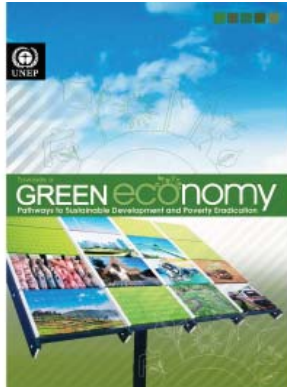


**December:** UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) CoP17/CMP7, Durban, South Africa



## New UNEP Publications and Reports

Mikyeong Won



### **Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**

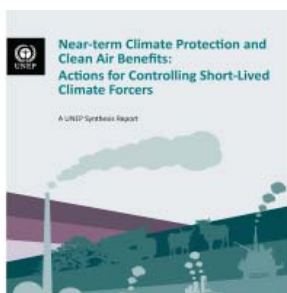
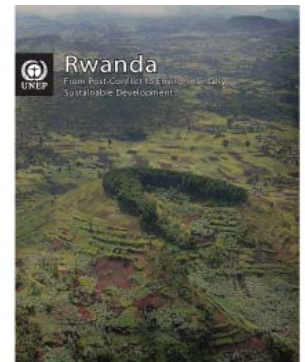
*“With the world looking ahead to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, the UNEP Green Economy Report challenges the myth that there is a trade-off between the economy and the environment. With smart public policies, governments can grow their economies, generate decent employment and accelerate social progress in a way that keeps humanity’s ecological footprint within the planet’s carrying capacity.”*

**- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon**

The Green Economy Report demonstrates that the greening of economies is not a drag on growth but rather a new engine for it. It has the potential to be a net generator of decent jobs, and is a vital strategy for the elimination of persistent poverty. The report also seeks to motivate policy makers to create enabling conditions for increased investments in transitions to green economies. This report confirms that an investment of two percent of global GDP across 10 key sectors is what is required to kick start a shift from the current brown, polluting and inefficient economy to a more sustainable green one.

### **Rwanda: from Post-Conflict to Environmentally Sustainable Development**

At the request of the Rwandan government, the UNEP has conducted a comprehensive, post-conflict environmental assessment of Rwanda. This report contains the outcomes of scientific assessments that involved extensive fieldwork, laboratory analysis and consultation with the Government of Rwanda, academic and research institutions, UN and international agencies, donors, civil society organizations and private sector representatives. The report assesses 11 thematic areas, including: Conflict, Peace Building and the Environment; Population Displacement, Resettlement and the Environment; Disasters and Climate Change; Agriculture and Land Degradation; Forest Resources; Water Resources; Wildlife and Protected Area Management; Energy and the Environment; Urban Environment and Health Issues; Industry and Mining; and Environmental Governance.

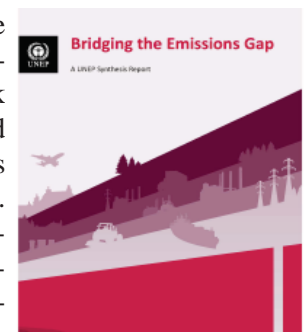


### **Near-term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits: Action for Controlling Short-Lived Climate Forcers**

The report, funded by the Swedish government, estimates that around half of the black carbon and methane emission reductions can be achieved through measures that result in cost savings over the lifetime of the investment. This report has been in great demand from both developed and developing countries, and builds on over ten years of scientific research, first, through the UNEP Atmospheric Brown Cloud project, and more recently via assessments by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

### **Bridging the Emissions Gap: A UNEP Synthesis Report**

Bridging the Emissions Gap is the second in UNEP’s series of reports on the topic. The first - the Emissions Gap Report – was launched at last year’s international climate negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. This edition was released just days ahead of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change CoP17 (UNFCCC CoP17) in Durban, South Africa, and seven months before the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). It provides the clearest indication that the world has to avert the negative effects of climate change. The report also outlines far more pessimistic scenarios, with estimates of GHG emissions reaching 11-12 Giga tones of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2020. This is assuming that the commitments and pledges of developed countries are not fully realized, including approximately US\$100 billion a year by 2020 earmarked by developed countries.



# Season's Greetings



*UNEP Addis Ababa Liaison Office  
is wishing you a joyous and prosperous New Year!*

*Happy New Year*

*ريخب متن أو ماع لك*

*新年快樂*

*Bonne Année*

*С Наступающим Новым Годом*

*Próspero Año Nuevo*



**1972-2012:**

Serving People  
and the Planet

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## **Addis Ababa Highlights Team**

**Feedback:** [unepoffice@uneca.org](mailto:unepoffice@uneca.org)

**Editor-in-Chief:** Constant-Serge Bounda

**Layout:** Mikyeong Won

**Production:** Mikyeong Won, Yohanan Ermias Bekele, Paolo Mastropietro, Netsanet Deneke, Eugene L. Ndongu, Mariam Nabatanzi, Jeremy Lissouba and Selamawit Gudeta

**Web Link:** [http://www.unep.org/roa/Addis\\_Ababa\\_Site/index.asp](http://www.unep.org/roa/Addis_Ababa_Site/index.asp)