

# Conceptual framework for African climate change programmes

## Introduction

1. The expert segment of the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment reaffirmed the indicative conceptual outline of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes to be implemented at all levels developed at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2008.
2. Africa's priorities are to implement climate change programmes in such a way as to achieve sustainable development, in particular to alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children.
3. Given that Africa is the most vulnerable region with the least adaptive capacity, adaptation is the most immediate priority. There is a need, however, for global mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions as a primary mechanism to prevent long-term climate change impacts on this region. In addition, effective implementation of mitigation measures offers opportunities for Africa to increase its economic competitiveness along a sustainable path of low-carbon development.
4. The following indicative outline covers the two implementation areas of adaptation and mitigation supported and enabled by finance, capacity-building and technology. The successful implementation of the adaptation and mitigation areas of work will require the full participation of all stakeholders, including the full involvement and empowerment of, and partnership with, civil society.

## A. Adaptation

5. Three broad areas of work were identified:
  - (a) Disaster reduction and risk management: including early warning, preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster recovery;
  - (b) Sectoral planning and implementation: adaptation in key sectors including water, agriculture, coastal zones, health, infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystems, forests, energy, urban management and tourism, taking into account the cross-sectoral implications;
  - (c) Building economic and social resilience through the diversification of economies to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, including through the use of indigenous knowledge and practices and the strengthening of community organizations.
6. Steps for effectively implementing work in the above three areas include:
  - (a) Understanding climate and climate change processes, vulnerability and risks, including, but not limited to, through monitoring and observation systems;
  - (b) Understanding the economics of adaptation;
  - (c) Understanding the social and cultural dimensions of adaptation;
  - (d) Policy setting and planning, including climate-proofing of future development;
  - (e) Piloting and demonstrating;
  - (e) Full-scale implementation.

## B. Mitigation

7. To implement sustainable development policies and mitigation measures in Africa, with special emphasis on the development of indigenous and local communities, women and children in Africa, the following key areas of mitigation work were identified:
  - (a) *Energy sector*: Including scaling up investment to provide access to affordable cleaner energy, especially for rural communities; development of appropriate alternative energy sources;

policies and measures to increase energy efficiency; precautionary approach to the development of biofuels for mitigation and energy security;

(b) *Reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)*: Including the development of market-based mechanisms to reward or provide incentives for forest conservation or the avoidance of deforestation and sustainable forest management practices;

(c) *Land use, land-use change and forestry*: As the primary source of emissions in Africa, this represents one of the key areas for mitigation work in the continent, which includes best practices to enhance carbon sequestration and reduced emissions;

(d) *Using and maximizing opportunities from the international carbon market*: Africa is to call for binding ambitious targets for developed countries to secure the price of carbon. Key areas of work for Africa include reforming the rules of market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism to increase accessibility by African countries, the full implementation of the Nairobi Framework and building capacity in Africa to gain access to the available financial mechanisms (the Clean Development Mechanism, Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, among others).

## **C. Supporting and enabling measures**

8. Three categories of supporting and enabling measures have been identified to support Africa's efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. These should form an integrated package of support tailored to each climate change intervention.

### **1. Capacity-building**

9. Capacity-building measures include the following:

(a) To enable human resource development through focused training, mentoring and learning-by-doing approaches, among other measures;

(b) To empower relevant institutions at various levels;

(c) To enhance observation, research and knowledge management;

(d) To strengthen communication, education and awareness-raising at all levels, especially at the local and community levels;

(e) To strengthen and use the regional networks of information and knowledge-sharing;

(f) To develop tools, methods and technologies and support their application;

(g) To encourage and strengthen participatory and integrated approaches in planning and decision-making, including the meaningful participation of civil society;

(h) To share experiences, information and best practices of African countries;

(i) To assess, strengthen and mobilize the capacities of existing relevant facilities and institutions in Africa.

### **2. Finance**

10. Sources of financing should be scaled up, including the following:

(a) National or domestic investment;

(b) Multilateral funding: grant, loan and concessional;

(c) Bilateral investment and donor funding;

(d) Insurance and other risk management instruments;

(e) Private sector instruments;

- (f) Market-based instruments, e.g., carbon finance;
- (g) Improving access to financing through:
  - (i) Rationalizing the ever-growing number of funds (including eliminating duplications and harmonizing the governance of these funds, among other things to reduce conditionalities to disbursement of the funds);
  - (ii) Streamlining bureaucratic procedures;
  - (iii) Reducing transaction costs;

11. There is a need:

- (a) For equity in the allocation of funds based on need and, including the use of vulnerability criteria in resource allocation decision-making;
- (b) To develop effective systems to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds mobilized for climate change;
- (c) For funding to be new, additional to existing development funds and reliable in the long term.

### **3. Technology development and transfer**

12. The development and transfer of technology are critical to the achievement of both adaptation and mitigation programmes in Africa. Key areas of work in the field of technology include:

- (a) Enhancing technology development and transfer, including hard technologies (e.g., drip irrigation, water harvesting, drought-resistant crop varieties, renewable energy technologies, building technologies, etc.) and soft technologies (e.g., knowledge, systems, procedures, best practices);
- (b) Addressing technology transfer barriers, including rules of trade tariffs, intellectual property right-barriers and technical trade barriers (standards, ecolabelling);
- (c) Enhancing and supporting the research and development capacity in African countries to foster the development and local manufacture of cleaner mitigation and adaptation technologies;
- (d) Enhancing technology cooperation between African countries and others, particularly the Africa-European Union joint strategy, Africa-China, Africa-India, Africa-South America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development cooperation programme with Japan, including through encouraging member States to develop specific programme proposals and submit proposals for consideration.

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