

## **AMCEN's WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Overview of Second Phase of Implementation the African process for combating climate change**

**July 2009 – February 2010**

#### **I. Summary**

Even though some activities have been undertaken to address the challenges posed by climate change, it has become imperative that African countries work in concert to address the unprecedented challenges from climate change which threaten to erode the modest gains they have made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). AMCEN recognized at its 12<sup>th</sup> session the need for Africa to work in concert to prepare a common negotiating position as well as integrate Africa's existing and new climate change initiatives and programmes under a consolidated framework to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation and review of climate change initiatives and sustainable development plans in the continent at all levels.

AMCEN's work on climate change in Africa (African Process for Combating Climate Change) was initiated as a follow up to the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2008 during which AMCEN underscored the importance of the decision and outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, in particular the agreement on the Bali Action Plan, which set 2009 as the end date for negotiations on strengthening the climate regime beyond 2012.

#### **Objectives**

The set objectives for the initiative include the following: to

- (i) support AMCEN to implement the continent's process to achieve a common negotiations position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;
- (ii) provide a platform to deliberate and agree on a shared vision and common position for Africa to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development in the continent;
- (iii) engage with the rest of the international community in finding solutions to address challenges posed by climate change ; and
- (iv) develop a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated subregional climate change programmes with the view to, among others, informing the negotiations process and vice versa.

#### **II. General Description**

The work of AMCEN on climate change in Africa is based on decision 2 on climate change made by the ministerial Conference at its twelfth session held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2008; namely, (I) Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and (II) a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes.

##### **First Part**

The first part of AMCEN's work on climate change in Africa is about engaging lead climate negotiators from African countries in a series of regional consultative meetings to (i) enhance the development, among others, of a common negotiating position for Africa; and (ii) build their (negotiators) capacity in relevant areas upon demand. Regional consultations have so far been held in Accra (August 2008), Algiers (November 2008), Poznan (December 2008), Bonn (March 2009), and Nairobi (May 2009).

The Nairobi meeting was particularly significant and historic since it marked the first meeting of African Group of Negotiators with AMCEN. It also marked the first meeting of the newly established African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change which served as the preparatory meeting for the

Special Session of AMCEN on climate change. Some of the outcomes of the meetings were ground-breaking. For example the update of the African common negotiating position was the most extensive and thorough undertaken since the first documented African common position was prepared in Naivasha, Kenya in 2006. The Nairobi updated *African Climate Platform to Copenhagen* (“Algiers- Nairobi Platform”) served as a reference document for the African Group of negotiators at the AWG-KP9 and the AWG-LCA6 held in Bonn from 1 to 12 June 2009.

It is expected that the regional consultative meetings for the African Group of negotiators will continue in Bonn (August 2009), Bangkok (September- October 2009), Addis Ababa (pre-COP, October 2009), Barcelona (November 2009), and Copenhagen (December 2009)

The broad implementation plan for the first part of the work is given in the Table below. It is apparent that apart from the meeting in Addis Ababa, the inputs of AMCEN into the other meetings will largely be limited to value addition. For example, a team of legal experts (legal network) will provide advisory services to the African group of negotiators.

#### **Implementation Plan for the First Part of the Work**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MONTH</b>
Informal meeting of the AWG-KP & AWG-LCA in Bonn	August 2009
AWG-KP 9 & AWG-LCA 7 in Bangkok	September – October 2009
African Group of Negotiators meeting & 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change in Addis Ababa	October 2009
Resumed AWG-KP 9 & AWG-LCA 7 in Barcelona	November 2009
COP15 & CMP5 in Copenhagen <b>Final formal briefing of African Ministers (AMCEN) ahead of the High-Level Segment</b>	December 2009
AMCEN working lunch in the margins of COP15 & CMP5 in Copenhagen	December 2009

#### **Second Part**

The second part of AMCEN’s work on climate change in Africa involves subregional meetings of African experts and negotiators to (i) work towards a better understanding of the substantive issues being discussed in the on-going negotiations under the Convention and its related Protocol; and (ii) consider the information collected and collated in connection with the preparation of the *Conceptual framework of African Climate Change Programmes* reaffirmed at the Special Session of AMCEN on climate change held in Nairobi, Kenya from 25 to 29 May 2009.

The entire process will involve (i) preparation of technical papers/briefs through technical reviews and analyses of the negotiations texts compiled at AWG-KP 8 and AWG-LCA 6. These technical briefs will serve as background documents for the consultative meetings of the negotiators in the subregions. The

other aspect of the work will involve a mapping exercise of the programmes, projects and initiatives in the subregions, identification of gaps, etc. as described below

The preparation of (i) updated African common negotiating position and (ii) draft framework of African climate change programmes and its associated framework of subregional climate change programmes will be through a participatory process which will involve consultative meetings in Luanda, Angola; Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania; Yaounde, Cameroon; Cotonou, Benin, and Tunis, Tunisia; and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between July and end of October 2009. It is noteworthy that there will be two aspects to the *second part* of the work; i.e. the common negotiations position preparation and the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes development.

### **Common negotiations position preparation**

The recently concluded AWG-KP 8 and AWG 6 held in Bonn from 2 to 12 June 2009 led to the production of the chair's negotiating texts - a compilation of submissions made by Parties in connection with the negotiations towards COP15 and CMP5. There is therefore the need to have a technical review and analyses to deepen the understanding of the issues raised by the various Parties. In this regard African experts will be engaged to review, analyze and provide technical papers on the following aspects: AWG - LCA; AWG-KP; Legal Issues; and REDD.

#### **AWG-LCA**

Topics to be covered under this heading include:

- (a) A shared vision for long-term cooperative action;
- (b) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change;
- (c) Enhanced action on adaptation;
- (d) Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation;
- (e) Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation

#### **AWG - KP**

Consideration of information on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties will be made under this heading.

#### **Legal Issues**

The work in connection with the legal issues will involve a review of draft protocols submitted by Parties (Tuvalu, USA, EU, Costa Rica, Japan, Australia, and Brazil) and amendments proposed pursuant to Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol. This will involve a summary and analysis of the relevant provisions of the draft protocols with the view to enhancing further the understanding of the African Group of negotiators.

#### **REDD Issues**

Even though considerable amount of work has been done in Africa in connection with REDD, there are still some issues that have to be resolved as a matter of urgency by the African Group of negotiators before COP15/ CMP5 in Copenhagen in December 2009. For example, the issue of whether the sources of funding for REDD should include market -based instruments is still being debated by the African Group of negotiators.

### **Comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes development**

It is recognized that the development of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated frameworks of subregional climate change programmes will present a

unique opportunity for enhanced collaboration in Africa between all the main actors working to combat climate change in the continent in particular. This initiative will also ensure that the negotiations process informs the programmatic work being carried out in the continent and vice versa. In this regard this aspect of the proposal is aimed at:

- (i) Ensuring that the negotiations process informs the programmatic related process undertaken and vice-versa.
- (ii) Developing a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes;
- (iii) Developing five FSCCPs (Central Africa; Eastern Africa; North Africa; Southern Africa; and West Africa)

#### **Implementation Plan for the second part of the work**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PROJECT – MONTHS</b>
Completion of desk research in the region and subregions	July – August 2009
Preparation and review of background documents for the five subregions.	July – August 2009
Subregional consultative meetings in connection with the FSCCPs (Kigali*, Cotonou, Luanda, Yaounde, and Tunis)	31 <sup>st</sup> August – 23 October 2009
pre- COP meeting of the African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change**	19 - 23 October 2009

\* Kigali meeting will be from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

\*\* UNEP sponsored Negotiators meeting will be on 19 and 20 October 2009

#### **Expected Products**

As described above there are a series of meetings to be organized by AMCEN or under its auspices. These are broadly the subregional consultative meetings and the pre-COP meeting.

The expected products from the subregional consultative meetings include the following:

- (i) Up-to-date recommendations – African Common Position in relation to Chair’s negotiating text.
- (ii) Framework of subregional climate change programmes.
- (iii) Draft key messages
- (iv) Report of the subregional consultative meeting

The expected products from the pre-COP to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2009 meeting are as follows:

- (i) Updated African Common Negotiating Position.
- (ii) Comprehensive framework of African Climate Change Programmes.
- (iii) Framework of subregional climate change programmes (Endorsed)
- (iv) African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change Statement on combating the adverse effects of climate change in Africa.
- (v) Recommended key messages.

- (vi) Report of the second meeting of the African High Level Expert Panel on Climate Change

### **III. Conclusion**

The African Process for Combating Climate Change is laying a firm foundation for the continent to have a common and informed voice at Copenhagen 2009 and a shared vision for combating climate change in Africa in particular.