



UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

AFRICA OFFICE

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GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT



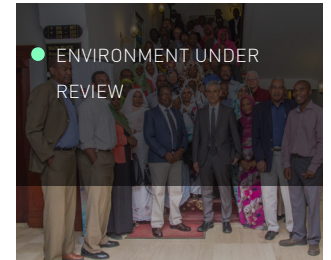
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SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: ENHANCING SINO-AFRICA ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP



UN Environment has been engaging with various stakeholders from the Peoples Republic of China to explore ways on how China can support UN Environment’s work in addressing some of the pressing environmental challenges facing Africa.

In a move intended to garner partner support in implementing the historic Kigali Agreement signed last year, the UN Environment Ozone Secretariat through the Africa Office and China, have reached a mutual agreement to roll out various initiatives that will enable Africa meet its commitments under the Kigali Agreement.

The Chinese partners who include the government and private sector actors are keen to provide both financial and technical support through training, expert resources, sharing knowledge, technical skills and best practices. The Foreign and Economic Cooperation Office of China would be the lead agency coordinating these efforts on behalf of the country. In Beijing, initial consultations between UN Environment and the Director General of the International Cooperation Department of China, Mr. Guo Jing, recently explored ways of enhancing a long-term cooperation mechanism, through establishing a Sino-Africa Environmental Center. The goal of the center will be to build local capacity in research and training in the areas of pollution and ecosystems management through environmental assessments, monitoring, governance, and regulations.

Collaboration will also focus on various priorities such as ozone, pollution, and capacity building.

China is in a position to share its experiences and good practices with many African countries. For instance, pollution is a major concern in cities in China such as Beijing, and it continues to pose health and environmental risks to residents. However, stringent governance measures undertaken by the Chinese Government have been instituted and enforced to address pollution, and the results are gradually bearing fruit.

Another example is with growing population. China is a rapidly developing with a huge population and an economy that is growing at a fast pace. Similarly, many African countries are struggling to deal with growing populations and expanding economies, and these are collectively adding pressure to ecosystems and posing environmental threats.



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT



THE AFRICA SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INDEX: LEAVE NOBODY BEHIND



On 23 January 2017, UN Environment, Africa Office participated in a Partners' Briefing on the African Social Development Index co-organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Office.

The briefing focused on raising awareness on the Africa Social Development Index (ASDI) as well as on seeking collaboration from participants in taking the index further into action.

The African Social Development Index helps to capture the differential impacts of exclusion on gender, urban/rural dwellers, both between and within African countries. More importantly, the computation of the index over a period of time can help to 'map out' and assess the impact of social policies in reducing human exclusion.

High levels of inequalities persist in most countries and growth has not been sufficiently inclusive and equitable for all segments of the population. As a result, exclusion has become a challenge for Africa's future development, yet no meaningful indicators exist to properly monitor the patterns of exclusion and help African member states develop appropriate inclusive policies.



The construction of an index that addresses these challenges emanates from this vision, and from a request by the member states to develop a tool that reflects specific development challenges that are unique to Africa.

Using a life-cycle approach, the Index focuses on six key dimensions of well-being that reflect the impact of human exclusion over time. As a monitoring and policy tool, the Index should help member States devise more inclusive social policies, and guide them in the implementation of UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. Both frameworks place a high premium on inclusiveness as a driver of sustainable and equitable development.



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



“NOW WE ARE EMPOWERED, WE CAN PRODUCE ECO-FRIENDLY SHOES WITH THE QUALITY WE WANT”

On the factory floor of Champion Shoes in Thika, northeast of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, James Mwaura, owner of Champion Shoes, is pointing to a pile of irregularly-shaped black rubber offcuts that would once have been discarded as waste from the process of making gents and school shoes.

“This is the most important part of the business. This is money for us— before, we used to throw it away,” said James.

“Before” was almost two years ago, when SWITCH-Africa Green’s team began working with the Kenyan MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) to help it green and improve its processes on the basis of all three pillars of sustainability: social, economic and environmental.

The products generated from the waste material— ladies’ and babies’ open shoes and leather key holders— yielded a pure profit of 215,500 Kenyan shillings (about \$2,079) in 2016. “Before” in 2012, the company’s entire profit was 20,000 Kenyan shillings.

The enterprise now also reduces waste by using old tyres for the soles of some shoes. It also lets other local shoes factories use idle machines at a fee, optimizing the use of resources.



A SWITCH-Africa Green partner, the Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC), puts the company through its Testing and Assessment of Products process, training staff in identifying, choosing and using sustainable, suitable material, in sustainable packaging and in marketing and promotion.

“We used to make bad quality shoes because we used the wrong leather, but now we produce eco-friendly shoes with sustainable and high-quality leather,” said Mwaura.

The company has now partnered with other local shoes factories to ensure collective bargaining power and access to quality leather from Nakuru, Thika and Sagana Tanneries.

This improved product quality has boosted sales and access to more markets, including supermarket networks across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.





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“NOW WE ARE EMPOWERED, WE CAN PRODUCE ECO-FRIENDLY SHOES WITH THE QUALITY WE WANT”

Training by SWITCH-Africa Green focused on areas such as resource optimisation, product innovation, resource efficiency, branding, as well as pricing and costing of finished products. The training was informed by an initial assessment on quality of products by Kenya Bureau of Standards.

“Now we are empowered. The training we received from UN Environment and SWITCH Africa Green helped us to improve our shoes and increase both sustainability and profits,” he said. Indeed, the company's profits have been on a healthy rise since 2012, from 20,000 Kenyan shillings (\$193) back then to a total profit of 8,153,040 Kenyan shillings (about \$78,659) today.

The SWITCH team's capacity building efforts also led to improvements in record keeping and product costing.

“We also taught the company how to keep accurate accounts,” said coordinator of SWITCH-Africa Green at UN Environment, Patrick Mwesigye “This is part of readiness to apply for green finance, something the company wants to do and that UN Environment can help them with,” he said.

As the business grew and production became more consistent and sustainable, Champion Shoes recruited an accountant for the first time, a fresh graduate in Accounting from Kenyatta University, Steven Nyoro.

“With Steven on board, we are able to keep records and do the right costing of our products. We used to underprice our products and that affected a lot our income,” said Mwaura.



The 25-strong workforce at Champion Shoes is predominantly young women. There are more women than men employed here, and most of the youths employed are orphans who benefited from SWITCH-Africa Green training programme.

“After the training, I started making Safari boots. I was given the power to make different products,” said Felistas Mwakali, a female worker at the factory.

SWITCH-Africa Green is implemented by UN Environment with the assistance of the European Union, and the fruits of its efforts are now starting to emerge clearly.

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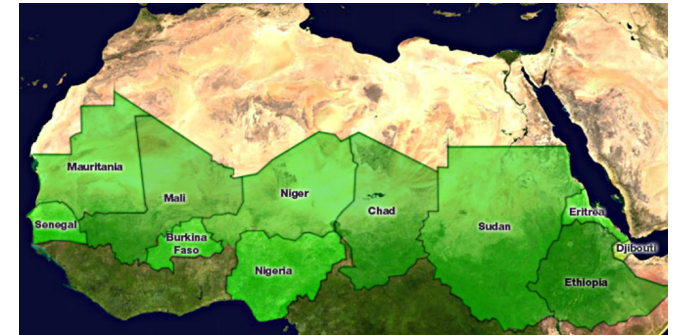
AFRICA'S INNOVATIVE RESPONSE TO LAND DEGRADATION



Financing development is a topic that poses challenges at all levels, especially as it is central to implementation of regional and global development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The best financing for development should be predictable and sustainable.

This is the motivation behind the Great Green Wall Initiative, a project by 11 African countries to develop a «Carbon Bank». The member states have commissioned a study on the establishment of a Carbon Bank as a financing mechanism for development activities to combat land degradation. An initial report of the study was received by the Extra Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Khartoum on 7th February 2017.

If implemented, the Bank will fund small and large scale agricultural and forestry projects to promote food security and improved livelihood while at the same time contributing to carbon sequestration. It will also fund projects on renewable energy from which carbon credits may be obtained. In the long term, the carbon bank has the potential of expanding the carbon market within Africa to facilitate trade in carbon credits from



projects funded by the Bank. These credits can then be availed to other markets as well.

The Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GGWI) is a pan-African programme launched in 2007 by the African Union. Its goal is to reverse land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara, boost food security and support local communities to adapt to climate change. The eleven member states governed by the GGWI Convention are: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Sudan. The secretariat is hosted by the Government of Mauritania in Nouakchott.



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ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INTO JUDICIAL TRAINING IN AFRICA



UN Environment and South African Judicial Education Institute jointly carried out a Regional Programme for Mainstreaming Environmental Law for judicial training in Africa, through a colloquium for judicial training schools, institutes and offices from across the continent. The colloquium was held from January 25–27, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In Africa, UN Environment's capacity building programmes in environmental law have resulted in a number of countries incorporating environmental law into their judiciaries, enacting environmental laws, strengthening institutions, enhancing access to information and public participation, and enforcing laws on environment matters, amongst others.

The colloquium focused on how to address these challenges and propose practical solutions. It also sought to enhance the capacity of the judiciaries and the larger legal fraternity to ensure effective enforcement of environment laws.

Judiciaries play important roles in interpretation of environmental laws and in supporting implementation and enforcement. They also have a vital role in promoting sustainable development by taking into consideration national and global environmental, social and developmental considerations in judicial decisions. A competent, independent and skilled judiciary is an integral element for advancing development as envisioned in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to the UN Environment, 75% of all judicial training institutions in Africa have not integrated environmental law in their curriculum. This lack of mainstreaming of environmental law in national and regional judiciary schools training curricula has not only led to a failure of enforcement of environmental law, but has also led to training programmes being expensive hence inaccessible and unsustainable.

At the end of the three-day event, the colloquium agreed on an action plan and framework for integrating environmental law in judicial education programmes in Africa. Eight countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique and Cameroon were nominated to constitute the core team that will champion and monitor implementation of the adopted framework and action plan. Ghana will be chair of the team. The South African Judicial Education Institute was nominated to provide secretariat support.

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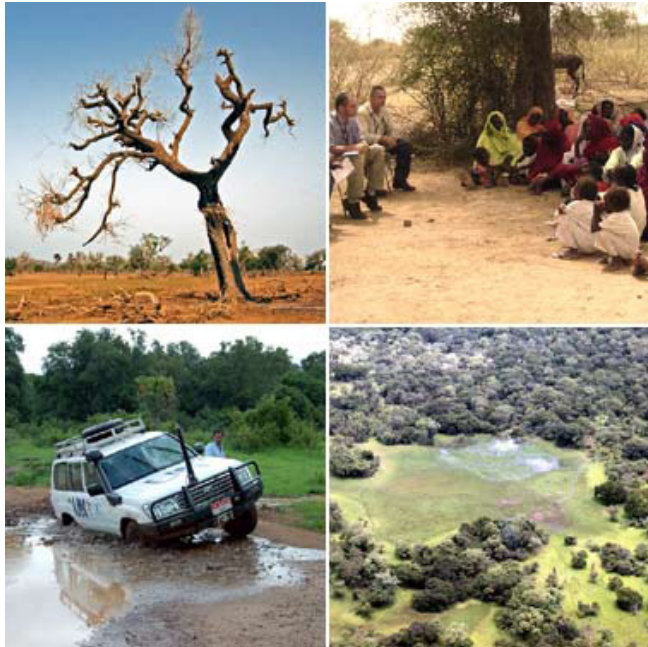


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AFRICA OFFICE SUPPORTS SUDAN'S STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT



A joint initiative funded by UN Environment and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom has provided funds for the production of the Sudan State of the Environment Outlook and Report, under a project dubbed 'Adapt for Environmental and Climate Resilience in Sudan' (ADAPT!).

UN Environment conducted a workshop on 6-9 February 2017, in Khartoum to strengthen the capacity of national and project experts to prepare a national state of the environment and outlook report. The trainees, drawn from government departments, civil society organizations, and academia were provided with valuable information that will enable them make substantive contribution to the report. They were also exposed to the various models commonly used in preparing state of environment reports with the aim of identifying one that best suits Sudan's process, keeping in mind the country's environmental challenges.

UN Environment provided guidance and advice on how to manage the various stages of the planned process. The training was structured around five key sessions under the topics: Setting the Context; Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) Process and Analytical Framework; Applying the



Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response Analytical Framework in IEA and Reporting, The Outlook; and, Communication and Outreach. Trainees will use the capacity gained throughout the drafting and reviewing processes of the report, as well as to direct authors to key data sources.

Following this workshop, the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Physical Development of Sudan officially declared the commencement of the report preparation process, marking a key milestone in the country's ownership of the report. The report is planned for release in the last quarter of 2018.

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UN ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS CAPACITY BUILDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS IN AFRICA

Journalists are often quick to report on isolated cases that need relief, and to call for charitable interventions for those afflicted in times of climate and environment related disasters. But they lack the same drive in proactively reporting on and calling for responses to the core issues that trigger and aggravate climate change in the first place.

Besides warning of looming disasters, how can journalists in Africa change the narrative in environmental reporting to a level that empowers and offers hope? How can the media provide a platform to address critical issues that can serve to inform audiences better on environmental issues? How can the media contribute to strategies, policies and action plans on climate change at country, regional and global levels? How can journalists better play a leading role in the climate change debate? These and many more, were some of the questions that a group of 30 journalists drawn from across Africa, sought to address at a recent media training held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A media training workshop organized by the Pan African Media Alliance for Climate Change (PAMACC) in partnership with the UN Environment, aimed to boost the capacity of African environmental journalists. The training was held in Addis Ababa from 1-2 February 2017 following the 28th African Union Summit. Trainers shared information to enhance the journalists' knowledge, understanding and reporting capacity on crucial climate change issues and Africa's standpoint on global climate change negotiations. Participants were trained on how to develop stories that are simple, powerful and accurate, and which resonate with the lives of their audiences.



To reinforce their skills on technical reporting, the journalists were also briefed on the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the African Union Agenda 2063, the Paris Agreement, as well as the processes of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties. The media is among non-state actors tasked with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting both achievements and setbacks countries make on these global agendas. Hence, a thorough understanding of these processes is crucial to ensure they produce accurate news and stories on these issues. The training also discussed ways in which media professionals can use advanced communication technology to reach a wider audience, especially through social media.



UN ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS CAPACITY BUILDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS IN AFRICA



Prior to commencement of the training, the journalists also participated in two meetings on the side-lines of the 28th AU Ordinary Summit in Addis Ababa. These meetings, focusing on Africa Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy in Africa, were organized by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), with support from UN Environment, UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Climate Policy Centre. It provided a platform for non-state actors to debate issues relevant to the continent's development, particularly on environment, to ensure that Africa's priorities are well captured and brought to the attention of African leaders attending the AU Summit. The meetings also discussed the post-Marrakech perspectives as well as the implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement.



As a main outcome of the training, participants requested UN Environment to facilitate the creation of a new functioning platform of environmental journalists through which they can interact and share African stories on environment and sustainable development.

ICELAND REAFFIRMS PARTNERSHIP WITH UN ENVIRONMENT

On 2nd February 2017, Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Icelandic International Development Agency (MFA-ICEIDA) met with the Head of UN Environment to reaffirm partnership with UN Environment in geothermal resource development in the East African region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Iceland International Development Agency committed to finance the second phase of the ARGeo project to a tune of USD 1M. ARGeo Phase 2 will run for two years from January 2017 to December 2018, and will focus on institutional support in setting up the Africa Geothermal Center of Excellence (AGCE) and the African Regional Branch of the International Geothermal Association. The meeting also discussed the specific targets and deliverables to be captured in the new donor agreement that will be signed by the two organizations to galvanize their partnership and guide implementation.

Following this commitment from the Government of Iceland, the AGCE Steering Committee met in Addis Ababa to conceptualize the steps to get the center operational. The Committee resolved to have the center hosted in Kenya and constituted under Kenyan Law, and to pursue partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) to support and champion the AGCE as a Regional Centre of Excellence.

The Committee also discussed and adopted a proposal on the functioning of the interim project co-ordination unit of the AGCE, which includes a work plan and estimate budget for 2017-2018. The steering committee tasked UN Environment, through its ARGeo project, to set up the unit and coordinate the functions of the interim phase of



the AGCE. They also requested the project to provide continuous technical guidance and curriculum development advice in consultation with African Union Commission and the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum in Kenya. The AGCE is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2018.

In addition, the second Geothermal Leapfrog Software training took place in Addis Ababa, from 30 January – 8 February 2017. The training aimed to build the capacity of geothermal professionals in the East Africa region on geothermal surface exploration and development so as to minimize risks associated with exploratory drilling. Trainees acquired knowledge that will enable them develop three dimensional conceptual models of their respective geothermal sites, using state of the art software and existing data.



UN ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA



UN ENVIRONMENT AND PARTNERS CONSOLIDATE SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES



Over 50 stakeholders convened in Pretoria for two days, on 7-8 February 2017 to discuss and validate the draft Consolidated Programme Framework (2017-2021).

The consolidated programme will provide an overall coordination framework for UN Environment's engagement in South Africa. The stakeholders included representatives of UN agencies/initiatives, central and local government, private sector and civil society. The new framework aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan whose goal is to accelerate the country's efforts to domesticate the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the Paris Agreement.

The key priorities identified by the framework include: green economy, ecosystems management, sustainable consumption and production, air quality, and environmental governance.

Discussions focused on the importance of activating all stakeholders with interest in the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development to contribute to the delivery of the framework.

The role of the private sector, as well as the modality to effectively communicate with the business sector on the content of the Sustainable Development Goals was identified as key.



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UN SECRETARY GENERAL ATTENDS 28TH AU SUMMIT IN ETHIOPIA

The 28th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union was held at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30-31 January 2017, under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth”.

At the opening ceremony of the summit, the outgoing Chairperson of the Union, President Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad handed over the baton of command to the newly elected Chairperson of the African Union, H.E Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea. In his acceptance speech, the new chair said “It is with honour and humility that I accept to preside over the destiny of our Organization during the year 2017. I promise to ensure that we implement all the objectives we have set to achieve during this period with the view to enhance the development of our continent”.

The UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres attended the summit and addressed delegates at the plenary opening. Mr. Guterres strongly reaffirmed the UN’s support to Africa towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Paris Climate Agreement. In particular, he called for better synergy in partnerships to ensure that implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is synchronized to ensure more efficient use of resources and effective monitoring and reporting. He reiterated the UN’s engagement at national and regional levels through the UN Country Teams and Regional Economic Commissions respectively.



UN Environment, which hosts the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), participated in a Committee Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change to review a report by the AMCEN Chair, Dr. Khalid Fahmy of Egypt. The committee discussed progress and action plans on environmental issues and pertinent global negotiations.

The Heads of State and Government also elected the new African Union Commission chair, deputy and commissioners. The current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chad, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat was elected as the new AUC Chairperson and Mr. Thomas Kwesi Quartey from Ghana as the Deputy Chairperson. The new cabinet will officially take office on 15th March 2017.



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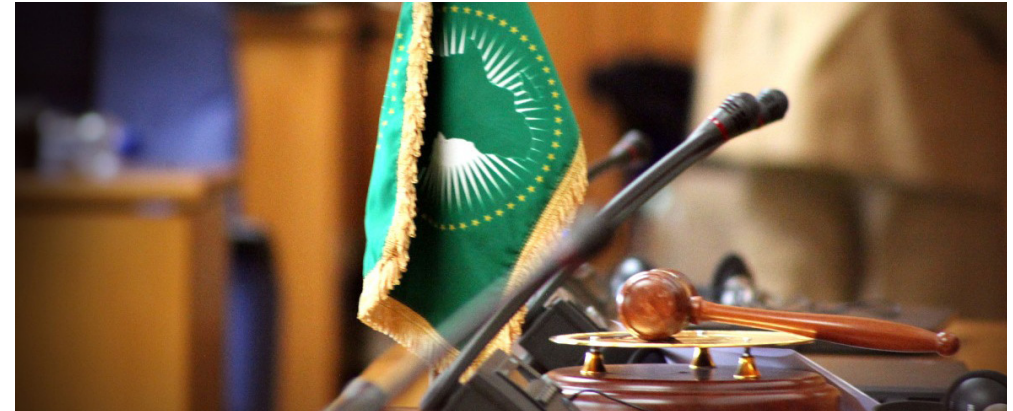
NON-STATE ACTORS ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

On the side-lines of the 28th AU Summit, non-state actors from across Africa attended two policy dialogue meetings that were organized by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance with support from UN Environment, UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Climate Policy Centre.

The meetings provided a platform for stakeholders to debate on issues relevant to the continent's development and to ensure that African priorities are well captured and brought to the attention of African leaders attending the Summit.

Africa has an abundance of renewable energy potential of solar, hydro, wind and geothermal energy sources which can be tapped into to provide clean, safe and relatively cheap energy, especially in rural areas. Adoption of renewable energy has tremendous benefits to the continent as it will lead to improved air quality and health, more affordable energy, and creation of employment opportunities for youth, among other benefits.

Non-state actors attending the Summit reiterated their commitment in supporting African states to implement the Paris Agreement, and emphasized that the continent must increase efforts in moving from commitment to action with their respective Nationally Determined Contributions. They also called for faster implementation of pan-African initiatives and programmes such as the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI).



The private sector was called upon to actively engage with both state and non-state actors in intensifying national climate action. One of the ways in which this can be achieved is for the private sector to transition to and prioritize new investments towards green economy. Following the deliberations, non-state actors made a 'Statement' on Sustainable Energy in Africa and 'Recommendations' to the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change to inform their decision-making.

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