



***Enablers for implementation of the Paris Agreement in Africa: ACPC-WMO Climate Information Services Partnership for Africa***

**African Pavilion, Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 15:00 – 16:30**

**Background**

The historic Paris agreement has provided an unprecedented opportunity to rally support for addressing some of the key issues confronting Africa in managing climate risks and implications for its long-term sustainable development. The crucial science-policy issue of the agreement is how countries can work collectively to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees by the end of the century while marking concerted effort to limit it to 1.5 degrees.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have become the central mechanism by which countries will work towards achieving the targets set by the agreement. The implication is that countries will need a solid understanding of the science of climate change **backed by robust climate information and services** delivery that can inform the NDC and associated mechanisms established through the global climate governance process to address the climate change and development challenge. Africa's capacity to address the climate science-policy issues and delivery of robust climate information and services for informed decision making remains a challenge. Existing capacity is limited to a very few African countries despite the unique challenges the continent is confronted with due to current and potential impacts of climate threat. Implementation of the Paris Agreement will also have to be aligned with the Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063, a process that will require innovative strategies for articulating the climate-science policy issues to enable the crafting of climate science informed solutions for the implementation of these noble agreement and agendas.

While Africa contributes less than 4% of global carbon emissions, it bears the brunt of the impact of climate. Africa, under the *Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want*, has **committed to addressing the global challenge of climate change** by prioritizing adaptation in all their actions, drawing upon skills of diverse disciplines and with adequate support to ensure implementation of actions for the survival of the most vulnerable populations, including islands states, and for sustainable development and shared prosperity. Africa will participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation that support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development on the continent, and act in unity of purpose to advance its position and interests on climate change.

Africa's commitment to combatting climate change converges with the *Agenda 2030's Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*. Key areas of intervention to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries include *integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning and improving*

*education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.*

This Side Event brings together a high level panel to discuss and provide insight on how existing weather and climate information strategies can be harnessed for the implementation of the Paris agreement as well as Africa's Agenda 2063 and 2030. It will draw on best practices and lessons from implementation of existing strategies, including initiatives of ECA's, AMCOMET and the GFCS, and will propose concrete actions to be taken at the continental level to address the unique weather and climate related challenges in Africa.

### Chair

- **H. E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime**, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC (**not confirmed**)

### Interventions

- Socio-economic benefits of Weather and Climate Services and its role in advancing Africa's Development Agenda - **H.E. Dr. Abdalla Hamdok**, Executive Secretary, UNECA
- GFCS implementation in Africa and how it links to implementation of the Paris Agreement: the need for a coordinated Regional Framework for Climate Services - **H.E. Prof. Petteri Taalas**, Secretary General, WMO
- AMCOMET Strategy and programmes relevant to implementation of the Paris Agreement - **H.E. Mr Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva**, AMCOMET Bureau Chair
- AMCEN Climate Change Strategy - **H.E. Dr. Khaled Fahmy**, AMCEN President (**not confirmed**)
- Coordinated approach to investing in weather and climate information services - (**AfDB, TDC**)

### Discussants

- **H.E. Prof Judi W. Wakhungu**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Kenya (**not confirmed**)
- **Dr. Youssef Nassef**, Director, Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC
- **H.E. Mr Ahmad Allam-Mi**, Secretary General, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) (**not confirmed**)
- **H.E. Mr Alain Marcel de Souza**, President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (**not confirmed**)
- **S.E. Madame Charafat El Yedri Afailal**, Ministre Déléguée auprès du Ministre de l'Energie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, Chargée de l'Eau (**not confirmed**)
- **H.E. Ms O C Z Muchinguri-Kashiri**, MP, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Zimbabwe
- **Guinea Bissau – Minister** (**not confirmed**)

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