

COP22 Africa pavilion side event

Date: 18 Nov 2016, 12-13:30h

Title: **Innovative solutions to climate change challenges for the SIDS**

Theme: Climate technology for African SIDS

Venue: Africa Pavilion, Room 2

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Organization: SYAH Cabo Verde (lead organizer), African Climate Policy Centre, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), SYAH Mauritius, SYAH Seychelles, SYAH Comoros, SYAH Guinea Bissau, SYAH São Tome & Principe, African Clim-Dev Youth Platform (ACLAYP), Indian Ocean Commission, International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), ISOR-Iceland GeoSurvey, AYICC Cabo Verde, and the Federation of Academic Associations of Universities of Cabo Verde.

Countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, São Tome & Principe, and Seychelles

Abstract: The side event **Innovative solutions to climate change challenges in the SIDS** will focus on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Africa and the AIMS region to compare and share best practices for managing risk of climate change, raise awareness of developmental challenges posed by climate change and mobilize innovative solutions for addressing unique challenges of climate change and development in the SIDS.

I. Context

Climate variability and change presents formidable challenges to African SIDS in meeting their sustainable development goals. By virtue of their unique location in the sea coupled with limited land resources, extreme multi-hazards, of which climate variability and constitute over 90%, and the vulnerable social conditions, African SIDS are one of the most at risk group of countries on the globe.

As if these were not problematic enough, African SIDS are often left out when deliberating on strategies for addressing global development issues. At best they are lumped up with mainland Africa whose needs are not the same as that of African SIDS.

Recognizing the formidable threats that the impacts of climate variability and change pose to the attainment of the sustainable development goals, the Bali Action Plan advocates member states to put in place initiatives to address enhanced action on adaptation that encompasses risk management and DRR strategies that include risk sharing and transfer mechanisms (e.g. insurance). These strategies should address climate-induced loss and damage in vulnerable countries such as African SIDS.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in its submission to the UNFCCC AWG-LCA proposed a Multi-Window Mechanism to Address Loss and Damage from Climate Change Impacts. The proposal advocated for a three inter-dependent components, namely, Insurance, Rehabilitation/Compensation and Risk Management to address loss and damage in SIDS.

Following the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September of 2014 the UN established the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (or the SAMOA Pathway) with the aim of mobilizing collective action and increasing the coordination of UN organizations in addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS. The SAMOA Pathway provides a framework for an integrated approach to achieving sustainable development goals in SIDS. The document provides a blueprint of the assistance required by SIDS in various areas, including on climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation, and gender equality and women's empowerment.

Also in line with the Samoa Pathway, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established a programme dedicated to Small Island Developing States and Territories in a bid to increase their resilience to extreme weather events and other adverse impacts of climate change. The programme will consolidate existing WMO actions to support enhanced weather and climate services in SIDS and Member Island Territories.

WMO also launched a partnership to contribute to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, with assistance from Environment Canada as well as through its Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS), in partnership with the World Bank and UNISDR. The CREWS Initiative is expected to finance weather stations, radar facilities, and early warning systems in poor and vulnerable countries, including SIDS, where weather data is unreliable or lacking.

This side event aims at sharing good practices for managing risk in African SIDS and raising awareness of the development challenges of climate change posed to these countries in order to mobilize innovative solutions for addressing those challenges in the six African Small Island Developing States.

African SIDS governments and its development partners, SYAH and several NGOs have been working together develop climate strategies to manage risk in these countries. This side event will present some of the achievements and solutions that are in process of implementation to strengthen to counties' resilience to climate change.

II. Background

Both the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report and its Special Report on Extreme Events (SREX) indicate that the frequency and severity of almost all extreme events will increase as the pace of climate change increases. An increasing seas surface temperature has already caused significant loss and damage to human and natural systems under current climate variability. Island states greatest resources are its ocean and marine resources that it derives its livelihood and very existence is thus under threat of climate change. Translated within the African SIDS context, this implies an unprecedented threat to attainment of Africa's agenda 2063 and the long-term sustainable development goals as outlined in the agenda 2030.

A new economic potential of Africa's oceans (the blue economy) is emerging and presenting a great opportunity for African SIDS to harness their marine and oceanic resources for their long-term sustainable development. To better harness these resources and ensure their long-term sustainability, an informed dynamic policy and decision making for a low emission climate-resilient development pathway.

This is a high level panel discussion on climate change and development challenges will discuss how the blue economy potential of African SIDS can be harness for sustainable development within the context of climate change.

III. Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

The main challenge addressed by this side event is how to effectively manage the risk that climate change poses to the six African SIDS, including developmental issues, vulnerability and resilience, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures.

Opportunities

The key opportunities that this side event will bring are the innovative solutions that can be mobilized and applied in order to effectively address specific challenges of climate change and development in the six African SIDS.

IV. Event Objectives and Outputs

Objectives

1. Share best practices for managing risk of climate change in African SIDS.
2. Raise awareness of developmental challenges posed by climate change in African SIDS
3. Mobilize innovative solutions for addressing unique challenges of climate change and development in African SIDS

Outputs

1. At least 6 best practices for managing risk of climate change in African SIDS shared (one by country).
2. Awareness of specific developmental challenges posed by climate change in SIDS raised at government and civil society levels
3. Several innovative solutions for addressing unique challenges of climate change mobilized.

V. Key Questions

Primary theme:

Technology transfer

Secondary theme:

Loss and damage

VI. Participants Roles and Responsibilities

Panelist Name	Organization/Position	Email	Phone Number
HE. Gilberto Silva	Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde, AMCOMET Bureau Chair	Julio.C.Lima@mdr.gov.cv	+238 2609950
HE. Carlos Manuel Vila Nova (TBC)	Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of S. Tome & Principe		+239 222 2309
HE. Bernardo Braima Mane (TBC)	State Secretary of Environment of Guinea Bissau		+245 955427440
Hon. John Kufuor (TBC)	UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Climate Change, former President of Ghana	baffour@kufuorfoundation.org	+233 303969615

Dr. Carlos Lopes (TBC)	Former Executive Secretary UNECA and UN Deputy Secretary-General	CLopes@uneca.org	+251 115445000
Prof. Petteri Taalas	Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization	sgomm@wmo.int	+41 22 730 8111
Dr. Joseph Intsiful, Senior Climate	Senior Climate Science Expert, African Climate Policy Centre	jintsiful@uneca.org	+251 115443804
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Representatives	Ministry of Environment Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles		
Mr. Antonio Palazuelos	SYAH Cabo Verde – President	ant.palazuelos@gmail.com	+238 9110896

VII. Proposed Program

5 min.	Introduction Remarks Mr. Antonio Palazuelos, SYAH Cabo Verde President
15 min.	Keynote Speech “Harnessing the Blue Economy Potential of African Small Island Developing States within the context of climate change ” UNECA (TBC)
20 min.	Technical Presentation “Supporting African SIDS to manage climate risks” Dr. Olafur Rognvaldsson, ISOR, and Dr. Joseph Intsiful, ACPC “Enhancing weather and climate services in SIDS” Prof. Petteri Taalas, WMO
30 min.	Panel Discussion Moderator: HE. Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde, AMCOMET Bureau Chair Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE. Carlos Manuel Vila Nova, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of S. Tome & Principe • HE. Bernardo Braima Mane, State Secretary of Environment of Guinea Bissau • Representatives, Ministry of Environment of Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

20 min.

Exchange with audience

Closing Remarks