JOINT PREPARATORY WORKSHOP OF EXPERTS FROM ECOWAS AND UEMOA MEMBER STATES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 24TH COP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

FROM 23 TO 25 OCTOBER, 2018, ELLKING HOTEL, ACCRA (GHANA)

FINAL REPORT
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Joint Preparatory Workshop of Experts from ECOWAS and UEMOA Member States for participation in the 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) on Climate Change was held from 23 to 25 October, 2018 at the Ellking Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

The workshop was attended by representatives from ECOWAS and UEMOA Member States, the CILSS Executive Secretariat, Expertise France, WASCAL, ENDA and Climate Analytics and by resource persons. The list of participants is attached as Annex to this report.

The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of Experts from Member States to ensure a more effective participation in the international discussions on climate at the COP24 scheduled to take place from 2 to 14 December, 2018 at Katowice, Poland. Specifically, objectives include:

- Developing the key guideline messages for the negotiations by taking into consideration the outcomes of the research conducted into the various global warming scenarios of 1.5°C and 2°C;
- Considering updates of deliberations at the inter-session workshops held in Bonn (May, 2018) and in Bangkok (September, 2018) as well as the additional on-going discussions on the rules and modalities governing the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate;
- Identifying the main issues of concern to the region in respect of the on-going discussions concerning the Paris Agreement’s operationalisation instruments;
- Updates on the planned activities by the Member States and regional organisations for the COP24 and deciding on a regional coordinated participation plan for the conference.

A- OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was marked by two statements. The welcome statement was delivered by Mr. Johnson BOANUH, representing the ECOWAS Commission, and the opening statement by Mr. John A. PWAMANG, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, representing the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana.

Mr. BOANUH, speaking on behalf of the two Commissions, welcomed all the participants and thanked the Ghanaian authorities for accepting to host the workshop; he then outlined the objectives. He briefly recalled the objectives of the Paris Agreement and emphasised that the post-Paris Agreement negotiations have been on-going for some years now and that all parties have been involved, including stakeholders from West Africa. These discussions will continue at COP24 in Poland leading to the adoption of rules and mechanisms that will guide the implementation process of the Paris Agreement.

Finally, Mr. BOANUH lauded the collaboration between the sub-regional institutions in preparing the sub-region’s negotiators for an effective participation in the COP on climate.

In his opening statement on behalf of the Government of Ghana, Mr. Pwamang, expressed the government’s appreciation to the organisers for choosing Ghana as host country for the
meeting. He emphasised that the signing of the Paris Agreement is an appeal to all parties to gradually implement the process which started in Bonn and continued in Bangkok. He added that the ultimate period to carry out successful negotiations for effective implementation is obviously at the COP 24. He further emphasised that this meeting will equip the Experts with the requisite negotiation skills in the different thematic areas, particularly on adaptation, financing, mitigation and other issues. He then declared the Joint Preparatory Meeting of Experts from ECOWAS and UEMOA for participation in the 24th Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP 24) opened.

After the official opening ceremony and introduction of participants, the following Bureau was put in place to steer the proceedings:

- **Chairperson (Nigeria):** Halima BAWA-BWARI;
- **Rapporteur (Benin):** Mr. Wilfried BIAO MONGAZI.

**B- CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

Due to the absence of the established Chair due to delayed flight at the beginning of the deliberations, the former Chair, Togo, (represented by Mr Jules AZANKPO) was called upon to Chair the sessions for the first day. The session started with a brief reminder of the objectives of the meeting which preceded the adoption of the Agenda by the participants.

The workshop deliberations were organised in the form of plenary and group sessions. They consisted mainly of presentations on specific items on the COP 24 Agenda, with ensuing discussions.

These presentations made it possible to interpret, among others, issues relating to adaptation, mitigation, financing mechanisms, technology transfer, gender, loss and damage and identification of sub-regional priorities to be presented to the African Group within the context of the on-going negotiations on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, the findings of some studies were also presented. They include: i) the diagnostic study on the implementation of the NDCs and the need for capacity building, and ii) studies on the impacts of climate change for a global warming of 1.5°C.

Finally, the regional strategy for the sub-region’s participation in the COP24 was discussed.

**B-1- Highlights of Presentations**

- **Session 1: Impact of global warming of 1.5 °C and 2 °C in West Africa: key guideline messages for the negotiators (Mr Mouhamadou Bamba SYLLA, WASCAL)**

The main objective of this session, prepared by Climate Analytics and WASCAL, is to develop key guideline messages for the negotiators based on the research findings in West Africa on global warming scenarios of 1.5°C and 2°C. In this regard, the presentation provides a scientific assessment of climate change information in development sectors such as: agriculture, water resources, energy and health.
This work has thus sent an important message in favor of climate negotiators with great confidence that global warming should reach 1.5 °C between 2030 and 2050 if it continues at the current rate with these different impacts in West Africa:

- drastic change in agro-hydro-climatic information, energy demand, population health;
- transformational adaptation must be well researched for better development and resilience to climate change;
- strong services for water resources, weather information and climate should be well established, even when global warming is limited to 1.5 °C;
- West African countries should benefit from adequate global funding sources such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Funds, as well as bilateral funds to develop green economies and achieve sustainable development goals.

❖ Session 2: Presentation of Results of the Diagnostic Studies on the Implementation of the NDCs and Capacity Building Needs conducted by the GCCA+ Project (Ms. Vanessa Laubin, Expertise France)

An update of the study initiated by the GCCA+ on the implementation of the NDCs within the UEMOA and ECOWAS Member States was made. A survey was conducted in 17 countries based on a questionnaire. Fourteen (14) countries provided responses and this enabled a critical analysis to be carried out on all the NDCs of countries within the Community. At the end of the survey, the following recommendations were made:

- Developing operational and institutional capacity with the UEMOA and ECOWAS Member States and specialised institutions in order to meet the needs of Member States regarding the areas of intervention of GCCA+, the international negotiations on climate and the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- Designing adaptation pilot projects;
- Building technical capacity of institutions, universities and regional training service delivery centres as well as research and innovation bodies and mentorships in innovation, adaptation and mitigation sectors;
- Mobilising climate-related investments and financing, including from both public and private sectors.

❖ Session 3: Interpreting the current overall context of the Post-Paris Negotiations and the expected ultimate results-background and current results of the Talanoa Dialogue (Mr. Seth Osafo)

The speaker addressed the progress made in the Post-Paris Negotiations relating to the:

- New guidelines on the section of Decision 1/CP.21 in respect of mitigation;
- Presentation on adaptation;
- Transparency framework;
- Overall result.

Furthermore, he addressed the expectations of the Talanoa Dialogue which has been summarised into the following questions:
1) Where are we?
2) Where do we want to go?
3) How do we get there?

❖ Session 4: Overall Result (Mr. Yaw OSAFO)

During this session, the presenter indicated that the overall outcome is planned over a five-year period with effect from 2023 and that the parties will meet to assess the progress made collectively in the attainment of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement regarding mitigation, adaptation and implementation. The outcome will be comprehensive and will be based on the best scientific and equitable data available.

Since Paris 2015, the Parties have been negotiating the modalities of the review and the sources of contribution to reach an agreement before COP 24. He added that progress has been achieved, however some divergences still persist.

❖ Session 5: REDD + (Mr. Thomas GYAMBRAH)

With regard to the REDD+, after recalling the role of this programme in the Paris Agreement, the speaker outlined the issues of note for West Africa. It was reiterated that the programme is an opportunity to be promoted in West Africa by developing a regional approach to improve consistency in the activities in order to adequately meet community needs.

❖ Session 6: Mitigation (Mr. Rachel BOTI-DOUAYOUA)

The issue centred on new guidelines concerning the section of Decision 1/CP.21 on mitigation which are focused on:

- The characteristics of NDCs referred to in paragraph 26;
- The information designed to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs referred to in paragraph 28;
- The accounting of NDCs of Parties, referred to in paragraph 31.

A comprehensive review of the document on the on-going negotiations indicates a lot of details and opinions from the Parties. The challenge is to come out with a good summary of the document without losing any of the key aspects. Many inter-sectoral issues must be handled in other chapters of the Agenda for the negotiations.

Session 7: Market and Non-Market Mechanisms (Mr. El Hadj Mbaye Diagne)

The discussant presented the issues pertaining to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on the:

- Guidelines on collaborative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement;
- Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established under Article 6, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement;
- Work plan as part of the non-market based approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8 of the Paris Agreement.
According to him, proposals have been made in the ongoing negotiations for the elaboration of Article 6.2 guidelines that will allow integrating aspects related to environmental integrity, promoting sustainable development, avoiding double counting of emissions and taking a levy to supply the adaptation fund.

However, at the level of Article 6.4, which is similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the supervision of the United Nations, it has already been agreed in the Paris Agreement that a levy at a rate to be defined should help the most vulnerable countries to cope with their adaptation needs.

Finally, he informed that the mechanisms should allow some States to honor their commitment under their NDC and above all to participate in raising ambition in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.

In Katowice, important consensus-based solutions need to be found regarding the management of activities not included in NDCs, the governance of Mechanism 6.2 and the transition of Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

Some questions may be forwarded to 2019, while providing assurance that they will be processed and resolved in a timely manner.

**Session 8: Response Measures (Mrs. Angelina Ama Tutuah Mensah)**

With regard to response measures, the resource person defined the concept of response measures under the UNFCCC. She then laid emphasis on some possible response measures, in particular carbon taxes and the promotion of renewable energy.

It became apparent that the problems relating to measures taken are important for Africa and cause socio-economic risks. The outcome should meet the concerns of Parties whose economies have been affected by the effects of intervention measures, especially for developing countries.

**Session 9: Loss and damage (Mr Idy Niang)**

The presentation clarified the fact that loss and damage are an important thematic area for support to be provided to counter the harmful effects of climate change beyond adaptation. There is no other financial mechanism on loss and damage under the Paris Agreement. The thematic area was introduced into the climate negotiations by the Warsaw International Mechanism. It aims at:

- Improving the knowledge and understanding of the overall risk management approaches in order to address loss and damage associated with adverse impacts of climate change, including slow growth impacts;
- Deepening dialogue, coordination, consistency and synergy among the concerned stakeholders;
- Strengthening actions and support, in particular, on financing, technology and capacity building to address loss and damage associated with the harmful effects of climate change.
Session 10: National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communication, Adaptation-related Register (Mr. Antwi-BOASIako Amoah)

In the course of the presentation, the issue of adaptation was addressed and it became obvious that the countries are not compelled to communicate/report on adaptation, but if they so decide, they must provide information every two years. There are three ways of reporting on adaptation. They include the NDCs, the National Communications (NCs) and the NAPs.

He indicated that the outline of the adaptation communication is still being discussed at the negotiations.

Furthermore, the issue of public register on adaptation and mitigation was also addressed.

Session 11: Technology Transfer (Mr Birama Diara)

This presentation indicated that the development, deployment and transfer of technology are among some of the priority solutions in the Paris Agreement in addition to financing in order to address the issue of global warming and even limit warming to 1.5°C (GIEC Special Report).

The activities carried out by the two bodies, the Technological Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) through the technological mechanism, help to overcome the barriers to the deployment of climate technologies. Nevertheless, there remains a need to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation in the area of climate technologies as effective means to support the implementation of NDCs and NAPs.

The communicator suggested that the GEF and the GCF be invited by COP24 to allocate resources to enable West African countries that have not yet benefited from this program and to develop and implement TAP (Technological Action Plan) and project ideas, priority technology pilot projects to foster innovation, research, investment and the implementation of the Paris Agreement (COP21).

Finally, he proposed that in West Africa, there is a need to develop strategies for technological innovation, endogenous technologies, South-South cooperation and collaboration to build capacity and share good practices.

In addition, ENDA Energy highlighted some points of divergence in the technology negotiations, which can be summed up mainly in: i) the need for financial support from NDEs (National Designated Entities of the CTCN), ii) the development and promotion of endogenous technologies, (iii) the resources ("support") needed to operationalize the technological framework, (iv) the effective implementation of synergies and linkages between technological and financial mechanisms.

Session 12: Gender and Climate Change (Ms Thiam Kante Penda)

The speaker indicated that 19 countries have incorporated gender dimension into their TNA. But she mentioned the lack of disaggregated statistical data in the area of gender related to climate change.
According to her, gender is a cross-cutting theme that should be linked to all articles of the Paris Agreement. To date, gender is only included in the Preamble, Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and at Article 11. Several Conferences of the Parties have placed a focus on gender equality and at COP23 an Action Plan has been defined with five priority areas. She also stressed that, in addition to the issue of parity in decision-making bodies, gender equality appears more generally as linked to the effectiveness of climate action.

In conclusion, she urged the countries to come and share their experiences on incorporating gender into their TNA during the Gender Day at the COP24, and to designate gender focal points for those have not yet done so.

**Session 13: Koronivia Joint Action for Agriculture (Mr. Ibila DJIBRIL)**

After recalling that agriculture as a theme is at the centre-stage of the UNFCCC, the speaker indicated that this thematic area did not explicitly appear until 2011 through Decision 2/CP.17; the speaker mentioned the main themes that were the focus of discussions within the context of the Koronivia Joint Action.

He further recalled the level of current negotiations on these thematic issues and indicated the key items to be monitored at the COP 24 as well as the strategy to be adopted by West Africa to contribute to the discussions on agriculture.

Finally, the speaker urged some institutions such as WASCAL and CILSS to take part in the negotiations scheduled for Katowice on 3 December, 2018 to provide the available information for our sub-region. African countries are also urged to make their submissions on the thematic issue to enable the negotiators to strongly defend the region's position.

**Session 14: Pre-2020 Finance and Ambition (Mr Mamadou HONADIA)**

During this session, the discussant touched on the following:

- Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement which mentions the notion of indicative qualitative and quantitative information. The Bangkok session brought up an informal memorandum incorporating general, potential and cross-cutting considerations, being the opinions of the Parties. It contains a draft conclusion and an Annex indicating submissions on Reporting Methods;

- Article 9.7 of the Paris Agreement. This touches on the issue of transparent and consistent information. But the main issues at this point are (i) the introduction by the Developed Countries (DC) of the new language of "reporting Parties", (ii) the removal of any references on "Financial Support for Loss and Damage"; (iii) the rejection of any reference to the principle of "New and Additional"; (iv) are not consistent with the requirement of reporting on "grant equivalent". The discussions will continue at COP24;

- APA 8 addresses the issue of Adaptation Funds which must serve the Paris Agreement. It is imperative at the COP24 to decide on the issue of exclusivity and sources of financing in view of the urgency of the Fund, the projects already considered and the low level of available resources.

Furthermore, other issues such as the items on the Agenda regarding Finance at COP24, the Pre-2020 Ambitions were discussed.
Session 15: Work Plan of the Paris Agreement: Status of Negotiations on Item 5 of the Special Working Group Agenda of the Paris Agreement (APA) (Jules Komlan AZANKPO)

During this session, the discussant laid emphasis on: i) the overview of the transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, ii) the mandate of the APA on the transparency framework, iii) the status of negotiations on Item 5 of the APA Agenda on modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework of action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and iv) West African strategies to contribute to the negotiations on the transparency framework.

B.2- Working Group Sessions

Three groups were constituted to work on the following key thematic areas:

**Group 1:**
- Worldwide assessment and REDD+;
- Mitigation;
- Loss and damage/response measures.

**Group 2:**
- Market and non-market mechanism;
- Adaptation and communication on adaptation;
- Technology Transfer.

**Group 3**
- Gender;
- Agriculture;
- Finance and Pre-2020 Ambition.

Each group was urged to proceed with the identification of priorities of the sub-region to be presented to the African Group of Negotiators in the context of the on-going discussions on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The report of all the Group Work discussions have been attached as Annex.

To finalise the Group work, ECOWAS, UEMOA and the resource persons have been given three (3) days to appreciate the relevance and consistency of the Group Work.

After the Group Work, a special session was organised in the form of roundtable discussions for the States to present the different activities to be carried out as part of COP24. The summary of these activities has been captured in the Annex of this report.

**B-3- Key Points Discussed**

After these different sessions, the discussions centred on the following:

- The overly scientific content of the GIEC report presented at this workshop; thus the need to present a summary report for the policy makers;
✓ The need for the WASCAL and CILSS Experts to take part in the Koronivia negotiations on agriculture on 3 December, 2018;
✓ The need to have implementation tools and instruments for the NDCs;
✓ Clarification of the governance aspect, both for Article 6 and the transparency framework;
✓ The establishment of a link between response measures and human rights;
✓ The continuation of the negotiations for the financing of loss and damage and the inclusion of the gender dimension;
✓ The need to have a gender strategy as well as a climate change strategy;
✓ The inclusion of the Niger and Malabo Declarations on regional priorities, particularly on agriculture;
✓ The importance of the preparation of Heads of State and delegation to take part in the COP24 (Talanoa Dialogue);
✓ The need to strengthen the African Negotiators; the Group on Finance and Agriculture by Scientists and Specialists in these thematic areas.

C- RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

C.1- RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the deliberations, the participants made the following recommendations:

To the Member States:
✓ Report the results of this workshop to decision-making authorities involved in the climate negotiations;
✓ Brief the Heads of State and delegation on the key points to be discussed at the COP 24 to ensure that they convey them effectively during the high-level sessions;
✓ Appoint gender focal points and loss and damage focal points;
✓ Ratify the Doha Agreement by countries that have not yet done so;
✓ Carry out an assessment of the technology transfer requirements for countries which have not yet done so.

To regional organisations, in particular to ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions and the CILSS Executive Secretariat
✓ Formulate a gender strategy in the ECOWAS region on climate change;
✓ Finalise, within a period of three (3) days, the results of the Group sessions to serve as preparation of the States for the negotiations;
✓ Establish a team of Experts to accompany the negotiators from the ECOWAS Region and support their participation in the negotiations;
✓ Organise and strengthen capacity building of the gender focal points on climate.
C.2- CONCLUSION

The closing ceremony of the workshop was marked by the adoption of the workshop report and the closing statement of Mr Johnson BOANUH, representing the ECOWAS Commission and Mr Kyekye Ku OPPONG-BOADI, representing the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana.

After expressing his gratitude to the Government and all the people of Ghana for their hospitality, Mr BOANUH commended the participants for their salient contributions at the workshop.

In his closing statement, Mr OPPONG-BOADI welcomed the opportunity given to the Member States to prepare for the COP 24 and then declared closed the Joint Preparatory Meeting of Experts from ECOWAS and UEMOA Member States for Participation in the 24th Conference of Parties (COP 24) on Climate Change.

Done at Accra, 25 October, 2018

CHAIRPERSON

Halima BAWA-BWARI