

**The 13th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCEN, Bamako, Mali from June 20-25**

**Climate Negotiations: Key Considerations for Africa Highlight the Need for
Stronger Commitments by Developed Countries**

Bamako, Wednesday—23 June 2010: African climate change experts meeting in Bamako, Mali, for the ongoing 13th Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) have outlined key elements of Africa's expectations for climate talks leading up to Cancun, Mexico, December 2010.

The session in Bamako pushed for an up-dated African common position based on the latest scientific and economic analysis.

Experts reaffirmed the position that within the context of a future carbon constrained world, together with Africa's development, poverty eradication and security priorities, the international climate change negotiations should conclude with a strengthened multilateral climate change regime that balances mitigation and adaptation priorities.

"The African Group needs to balance ambition with realism during negotiations, while maintaining public pressure for fair, and comprehensive outcomes required to keep Africa safe," Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, the Chair of the African Group of negotiators observed.

Noting that the future regime must endeavour to resolve the current challenge and potential future crisis of devastating climate change impacts in Africa, the experts also pointed out that the regime must also "simultaneously support efforts of African countries to create sustainable and equitable societies that can ensure economic development, competitiveness and growth in a way that enhances social and environmental development".

In order to achieve this, the experts are urging for support of a consolidated African science-based position at both the ministerial and heads of States level that is expected to create a framework for a legally binding outcome.

In addressing climate change in Africa, the experts also discussed existing opportunities in the shift to a green economy.

To pave the way for this transition, the experts are calling for wide ranging domestic policy initiatives and incentives. They also want a reform of what they termed "perverse subsidies and taxes", which they cited as a major bottleneck in making any meaningful progress in going green.

In addition to creating proper incentives the experts also observed that improving and enforcing environmental legislation is mandatory if the transition to a green economy is to be realized.

In his presentation during the Experts' Segment that preceded the ministerial session, which kicks off today, Dr Moustapha Kamal Gueye, the Acting Head, Green Economy Advisory Services Unit at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for increased multilateral and bilateral trade regimes, which are conducive to the flow of environmental goods and services.

Other measures the experts outlined included; international aid in support of the national shift towards a green economy; the proper functioning of a global carbon market; the development of global markets for ecosystem services; the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies; and, international coordination in implementing green stimulus packages.

Notes to Editors

A Green Economy is characterized by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that build on and enhance the earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks. These sectors include renewable energy, low-carbon transport, energy efficient buildings, clean technologies, improved waste management, improved freshwater provision, sustainable agriculture and forest management, and sustainable fisheries. These investments are driven by or supported by national policy reforms and the development of international policy and market infrastructure.

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