



Regional Workshop

**The Role of African Parliamentarians in the
Implementation of the Paris Agreement:
Challenges and Prospects**



**Abuja, Nigeria
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1. INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis represents the greatest existential threat of our time. The world is already suffering the consequences of a rise in temperature of 1°C above pre-industrial levels. The scientific community warns us that we may be close to passing a dangerous threshold, when feedback loops may be triggered into creating a runaway effect, with dire consequences.

Africa is responsible for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but it is extremely vulnerable to the social, economic and environmental effects of climate change. The 2015 Paris Agreement represents a glimmer of hope in this challenging scenario. The voluntary commitments or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are a crucial step forward in the efforts to address climate change.

The recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made a strong case for trying to limit the rise of global temperature to 1.5°C, as 2°C would bring climate catastrophe to hundreds of millions of people. The NDCs are an improvement on the business as usual scenario, but even if fully implemented would still put us on a trajectory to an increase of more than 3°C by the end of this century. It is therefore crucial that the NDCs are fully implemented and, if possible, improved upon when each country updates its commitments in 2020.

The NDCs in Africa have established two

national targets in each country: an unconditional target to be met by the country by drawing on its own resources and a conditional target, dependent on international financial support.

Legislators have a key role to play in addressing the climate crisis in Africa by creating awareness of the seriousness of the climate crisis, pushing for implementation through oversight and generating political will to increase the ambition of their national NDCs in 2020.

The NDCs pose not only a legal obligation for those countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement, but a crucial opportunity for sustainable low-carbon development and to build resilience for the future. The African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Climate Parliament and GLOBE Nigeria jointly organized this regional workshop to build capacity among African legislators to support the implementation of NDCs in Africa.

The general objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of African parliamentarians on their role and responsibilities in the implementation of NDCs on the continent. The specific objectives included:

- Raising awareness among Members of Parliament (MPs) in Africa on the impacts of climate change and opportunities for action within the NDCs and the Paris Agreement;
- Raising awareness among MPs in

- Africa on the need for all countries to be compliant regarding measuring, reporting and verification (MRV), a conditional requirement for effective implementation of the NDCs;
- Sharing best practices and engaging African parliamentarians in a policy dialogue on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation and monitoring of the NDCs, including their alignment with both the SDGs and national development plans;
 - Empowering African parliaments to take an active role in the African response to climate change;
 - Working towards an African legislative action plan for NDC implementation in Africa



ECOWAS Parliament Building, Abuja, Nigeria.



From left to right: John Fonweban, FAO Nigeria; Dr. Peter Tarfa, Director, Climate Change Department, Federal Ministry of Environment; Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment; Hon. Moustapha Cissé Lo, Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament; Ebrima Faal, Country Director for Nigeria, AfDB; Sékou Sangaré, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS Commission.

2. SESSIONS

DAY 1

OPENING SESSION

In his welcoming remarks, **Sékou Sangaré**, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS Commission, alluded to the impact of climate change in the West Africa region. As detailed in the IPCC report published this year, the rise in temperature could have devastating consequences, including a loss of

biodiversity, diminished agriculture production and water availability, armed conflicts and the spread of diseases. He highlighted the critical role of parliamentarians as key actors at the national level for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Ebrima Faal, Country Director for Nigeria, AfDB, spoke of Africa's vulnerability to disruptions in the climate and of their impact on economic growth. Climate change and green growth are at the

center of the development agenda of the AfDB, focused on promoting the transition to a sustainable, resilient, low-carbon development pathway.

Parliamentarians are crucial stakeholders, he said. They can make sure that national interventions align with international efforts and hold the governments accountable regarding the NDCs. Capacity building of MPs is key. The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to share best practices and success stories.

John Fonweban, FAO Nigeria, stated that food security and nutrition in West Africa are a critical part of NDC implementation. He stressed the need to create an enabling environment to tap into West African resources, support national plans and empower women. According to FAO's assessment of the NDCs, the agricultural sector has a decisive role to play in addressing climate change in developing countries. The transformational potential of this sector is enormous.

Dr. Peter Tarfa, Nigeria's Chief Climate Negotiator, Federal Ministry of Environment, read remarks by the Minister of Environment. The Minister emphasized the link between efforts to implement the NDCs and those to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is very important that parliamentarians engage with the climate agenda: using oversight to promote climate resilience and energy efficiency, among other issues.

Honorable Moustapha Cisse Lo, Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament, described climate change as the greatest challenge of our

time. He emphasized that 15 member countries of ECOWAS have ratified the Paris Agreement.

Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment, read remarks by the President of the Senate of Nigeria, who commended the joint efforts of ECOWAS, the AfDB, the Climate Parliament and GLOBE Nigeria to organize a workshop that can provide a sense on where we stand on implementation of the NDCs. We need robust legislation and regulation, he stated, adding that Nigeria is on track to achieving SDG Goal 13 through its groundbreaking legislation on climate change. He stressed the importance – given the vulnerability of West Africa to climate change – of having a regional view on the subject, beyond country level responses, and the need for an African commitment for climate action based on sound science.

Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB, provided an overview of the objectives of the workshop. He reminded the participants that 53 African countries submitted NDCs and that 45 have ratified the Paris Agreement, making it a domestic legal obligation. Parliamentarians have been involved in the process of ratification. Now it is time to focus on the need to implement, monitor and report. He mentioned the fact that NDCs in Africa have set unconditional targets plus conditional targets, depending on the availability of additional resources. He alluded to a process of resource displacement from development to climate issues. There is a window of opportunity: Africa has

abundant renewable energy resources. Over 600 million people don't have access to energy. Indoor pollution is a serious health problem. Africa has the largest surface of unutilized agricultural land in the world and it imports \$35 billion a year in food. We need to create green jobs in the continent and to manufacture photovoltaic (PV) cells, wind turbines and batteries. Legislators are uniquely positioned to help address climate change and tap into these massive resources. Africa is suffering the impact of climate change: 7 of 10 most vulnerable countries in the world are in the continent. We need to have the right policies and frameworks to remove the stigma of vulnerability. We must not look at Africa as a victim of climate change, but as a leader in climate action. The AfDB has created the NDC Hub for Africa to provide technical assistance to countries to implement their NDCs and is part of the African Financial Alliance on Climate Change. Financial resources are key and Africa so far has access to only 3% of global resources on climate.



Mr. Nyong opened the floor for the MPs to introduce themselves and briefly articulate their expectations about the workshop.

SESSION 1

This session on “Overview of NDCs in Africa: Understanding the Paris Agreement” was kicked off by **Nicholas Dunlop** (Climate Parliament), who presented on “NDCs, 1.5 °C and the role of parliamentarians.” Mr. Dunlop mentioned that there was a 5°C difference between the height of the last Ice Age and pre-industrial times, representing a difference of only 100 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Since the invention of the steam engine we have increased that concentration by 120 ppm. We might thus trigger a similar transformation of the planet, making it unrecognizable to our descendants. This transformation would happen mostly not as a direct consequence of GHG emissions, but because of feedback loops. The 2015 Paris Agreement set a target of 1.5°C or at the most a 2°C increase in global temperature. If you add the Paris commitments together, we are aiming at more than 3°C, which could trigger a global catastrophe. MPs must be involved not only on implementation, but on mobilizing political will for stronger 2020 commitments. He emphasized that climate change is not under control. We are on a path to 3-6°C by the end of this century. Our carbon budget is the amount of GHG we can put into the atmosphere if we are to keep the planet's temperature under control. The IPCC estimates it may be as low as 420 GtCO₂ beyond what we have already emitted. At current emission levels of 42 GtCO₂ per year, our carbon budget might be exhausted in 10 years. He stressed the IPCC's conclusion that the difference between 1.5°C and 2°C is immense. At

2°C, we can expect far more severe floods, droughts, and impacts on human health and crops, poverty, famine. The ice is melting, sea levels are rising. The last time the planet was 3°C hotter than pre-industrial times, the sea was 25 meters higher. The IPCC tells us that 70-90% of corals will die even at 1.5°C. Why are we taking this risk? Climate change is actually an easy problem to solve. 15-20% of emissions are a product of deforestation, 70% come from fossil fuel burning. The most important step we must take is to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, at small and large scale. We have enough clean energy resources to power 25 world economies. A square of 400km by 400km of solar PV panels on any desert would power the whole world. Large-scale solar power stations are best installed in deserts, not on agricultural land, because as the world warms there will be scarcity of arable land. Renewable energy is variable, so we must have high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission lines that can carry energy across large distances with small losses. And electric vehicles. The Climate Parliament is a global network of legislators, working mostly in the developing world. We have ample experience organizing global and regional parliamentary hearings. Our success stories in Uganda, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, India, Bangladesh, Tunisia and elsewhere are proof that MPs can achieve extraordinary results.



Nicholas Dunlop, Secretary-General, Climate Parliament.

Dr. Peter Tarfa (Federal Ministry of Environment) presented on “Understanding the Paris Agreement, tracking NDCs: Nigeria’s Perspective.” He highlighted that Nigeria has one of the most ambitious NDCs in Africa. He stressed that climate change is threatening national development across all sectors, through extreme weather events, loss of agricultural farmland, water scarcity and damaged infrastructure. This impact could amount to 11% of the GDP by 2020. He detailed the main sources of GHG emissions and the crucial areas of vulnerability. He underscored the President’s commitment to the NDCs. He alluded to three alternative paths: business as usual, the unconditional target and the conditional target. He detailed the progress made since the Paris agreement, which Nigeria signed in 2016

and ratified in 2017. He mentioned the development of Sectoral Action Plans for NDC implementation, stakeholders consultations (with MPs and the private sector, among others), the issuance of the first sovereign green bonds in 2017 (the first in Africa and fourth in the world) and a follow-up in 2018, a framework for new legislation under preparation, efforts on capacity building on MRV, and a GHG inventory. Among possible barriers to NDC implementation, he mentioned: lack of clarity about overall cost, scarce access to financial resources, limited socialization of the NDCs and the NDC Sectoral Plan, unclear business opportunities for the private sector, and a lack of visibility on what various actors are doing on climate change. What should be covered by measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction actions? Do we have the capacity to quantify emission reductions across the economy? He detailed next steps on the way forward and potential challenges.

Chidi Onuha (GLOBE Nigeria) addressed the challenges of implementing the NDCs in Africa. He underscored legislation and oversight as important areas of action for legislators. He stressed one of the crucial themes to emerge in the workshop: we must view the NDCs as tools and a window of opportunity for development, as we seek an alternative way of development, transitioning to a low-carbon economy. He emphasized the importance of MRV and alluded to the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

SESSION 2

Timothy A. Koomson (AfDB) opened the session on “Mobilizing resources for NDC implementation in Africa” by presenting on “Climate finance and investment: Opportunities for implementing NDCs in Africa.” Meeting the targets depends on availability of resources, he said. There is no universal definition of climate finance. It must not be regarded as aid. It encompasses four areas: climate funds, carbon finance, public expenditure and that of the private sector. Africa has had an active role in the global climate negotiations, rallying behind the key principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities”. The Paris Agreement reaffirmed the commitment of the UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide resources to developing countries to implement the NDCs. The AfDB has developed a series of strategies to help mobilize resources in Africa. First, we need sophisticated tools to analyze carbon intensity according to a climate rationale, such as the AfDB’s GHG Accounting Tool and the Climate Safeguard System. Secondly, the AfDB has developed a series of investment and risk management instruments. Thirdly, in order to mobilize climate finance in Africa, the AfDB has made a commitment to have it constitute 40% of its lending operations. Mr. Koomson provided a list of the major existing climate funds: bilateral, multilateral and multi-donor. Africa has done well mobilizing funds, he stated. The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the financial instrument of the UNFCCC, has a potential of impact in several areas, including, on the mitigation side: energy access, energy efficiency, transport and

forest management, and, on the adaptation side: resilience of infrastructure, health and ecosystem services. The GCF has approved \$4.6 billion in funding, 25% of which will go to climate funding in Africa. He highlighted the PIDACC resilience project in the Niger basin across 9 countries and private sector projects in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He described three pivotal roles for MPs: a) mobilizing public expenditure, which can be used to leverage private resources (he presented the example of Ethiopia, where public expenditure allocated to climate change amounts to 2.1% of the GDP), b) leadership and alignment between national needs and climate finance, and c) contributing to create an enabling environment, through regulatory instruments. MPs can champion the creation of a national climate fund, e.g. Namibia.



Timothy A. Koomson, Chief Climate Officer, Climate Finance Division, AfDB.

Anthony Nyong (AfDB) presented on

“Mobilization of domestic resources: The role of parliamentarians.” He stated that it is essential to move away from a victim mentality regarding climate change. He stressed the crucial importance of mobilizing domestic resources. What are the benefits of doing this? It constitutes a stable, predictable and sustainable means for development finance, it creates a social contract between government and citizens, it contributes to improved policy and promotes ownership of the development process, reducing dependency on external flows and the burden of interest rates. He described private capital as timid. It requires stable policies, good returns. He was critical of relying on China-Africa relationships, India-Africa relationships, Brazil-Africa relationships. What are the potential sources of internal funds? Savings, tax revenues, sovereign wealth funds, bank assets, pension fund assets and insurance assets, among others. How can MPs contribute to domestic resource mobilization? Their core role lies in strengthening public financial management systems, processes and institutions (through policy reform) and in promoting financial accountability and discipline, including fossil fuel subsidy reform. African countries spend 0.3% of their GDP on energy vs. 7% of GDP on fossil fuel subsidies, that is, 22 times less. Mr. Nyong gave the example of Vietnam’s rural electrification program that raised energy access in that country from 2% in 1975 to 98% in 2012. He stated that enhanced sector governance increases the quality of power supply. Among his recommendations to move forward are the need to: strengthen governance, transparency and accountability in the utilization of

domestic resources, implement tax policy reform, and leverage the growing interests of multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions in domestic resources.



Anthony Nyong, Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, AfDB.

SESSION 3

During this session, four legislators shared success stories about parliamentary action on climate change in their own countries.

Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal) presented on the experience of the Alliance of Parliamentarians of Coastal Countries of West Africa (APPEL), an initiative to strengthen legislators' technical and organizational capacities on environmental issues, with the aim of improving the governance of natural resources in the region. Mr. Thiam stressed the potential of the West Africa coastal area, a potential that is limited by political, economic and ecological constraints. He underscored the unique position of parliamentarians as essential

actors in the management of coastal resources. APPEL seeks to contribute to a long-term vision for the coastal area of West Africa. It aims to implement a legislative and institutional framework, expedite the ratification of international conventions, find mechanisms of regional harmonization and promote regional collaboration.

Lawrence Songa (Uganda) summarized the accomplishments of Uganda's Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change. Created in 2008, it has a membership of 223 MPs out of a total of 456. Among its accomplishments, it has contributed decisively to the National Environment Bill, the Renewable Energy Policy Review, the Climate Change Bill, the National Development Plans, the Green Growth Strategy and the signing by Uganda of an Agreement to join the International Solar Alliance. It has been the point of participation of Ugandan MPs in international fora, such as the COPs of the UN Climate Convention. Its work has focused on oversight, legislation, representation and appropriation/budgeting. Mr. Songa detailed some of the challenges still facing Uganda on climate, energy and development issues.

Jitu Soni (Tanzania) spoke of a series of innovative and successful initiatives to reduce the cost of solar energy through tax-exemptions in his country and, specifically, in his constituency, including the removal of VAT and import duties on solar equipment.

Sam Onuigbo (Nigeria) provided an overview of Nigeria's 2017 Climate Change Legislation Framework

Legislation. He explained the scope and guiding principles of the law. He mentioned the importance of the National Council on Climate Change, to be chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic, with State Ministers acting as vice-chairs in a rotatory capacity. He detailed the functions of the Council and of the Climate Change Agency. One of the key roles of the Council will be to formulate a Framework Strategy on Climate Change and a National Climate Change Action Plan. The law calls for an allocation of for 2% of the annual national budget to the Council.

DAY 2

SESSION 4

Innocent Onah (GLOBE Nigeria) opened the second day of the workshop reflecting on parliamentary initiatives in Nigeria, with the aim of motivating the MPs to participate actively in the implementation, monitoring, oversight and development of the 2020/2025 upcoming round of reporting in African countries' NDCs and to set the stage for a joint African parliamentary climate action plan. He summarized the history of GLOBE International and GLOBE Nigeria. He presented the project "GLOBE Legislators Advancing REDD+ and Natural Capital Governance Towards the Delivery of the 2030 Agenda," implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Nigeria. Mr. Onah provided an overview of GLOBE International's Climate Legislation Initiative, launched in 2013, that seeks to implement domestic legislation making emission reductions possible and cost-effective and building awareness on the fact that appropriate

legislative frameworks can significantly increase levels of internal investment in renewable energy. Mr. Onah detailed the key elements of Nigeria's NDC, including targets, commitments, elements and relevant sectors. In his concluding remarks, he stressed a number of important points: investment is key to adapting to climate change in Africa, ineffective institutions and political instability severely limit such investment, climate change poses a serious threat to agricultural production in the region, achieving the goal of limiting the global rise of temperature to 2°C will require unprecedented economic, social and technological shifts, new investment will require adequate legislation, MPs must oversee national and sub-national climate goals. He suggested the creation of an African Legislative Climate Action Plan (ALCA) to coordinate all efforts and initiatives by African parliaments toward a low-carbon, sustainable development pathway. This action plan could be implemented in a partnership between the institutions co-organizing the present workshop.

During the following discussion, the link between climate change and peace was highlighted. **Nick Dunlop** underscored the historical collaboration between the Climate Parliament and GLOBE, based on complementary agendas, with national networks often being led by the same MPs. It is very important that MPs learn from each other across borders, he said. Through parliaments good ideas can travel more quickly than through governments and international agencies. MPs have access to ministers, can advocate ideas flexibly and generate a network effect: building knowledge plus

motivation. The Nigerian Climate Change Legislation Framework Legislation is an outstanding example of what parliamentarians can achieve by working together.

SESSION 5

Session 5 was dedicated to addressing the NDCs from the point of view of several key sectors: agriculture and food security, energy and transport.

In his presentation on “Agriculture and food security under the NDCs”, **John Fonweban** (FAO) stated that, according to FAO’s 2016 global assessment of the NDCs, the agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) play a significant role in responding to climate change, especially in developing countries, where these sectors are crucial to livelihoods, income and food security. Agriculture is responsible for 24% of global GHG emissions, compared from 35% from power, 21% from industry and 14% from transport. Agriculture is key to NDC implementation. The FAO report found that the 98% of countries (131 out of 134) that include priority areas for adaptation and/or adaptation actions in their NDCs mention the agriculture sectors. The agricultural sectors are capable of providing both mitigation and adaptation measures within the Paris Agreement. It is possible to leverage mitigation-adaptation synergies in these sectors. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) capitalizes on such synergies. Mr. Fonweban underscored the relevance of food security, defined as “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life,” in the

NDCs. Food security and nutrition require appropriate policies and frameworks based on legislation. He stressed that nutrition is a component of 12 of the 17 SDGs. FAO estimates that food production must increase by at least 60% to respond to the demand of the 9 billion people that are expected to inhabit the planet by 2050. CSA is crucial to achieving the NDCs. FAO defines CSA as “agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes GHGs (mitigation) where possible, and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals”. He concluded his intervention by delineating the role of FAO in supporting NDC implementation and, specifically, in engaging parliamentarians.



Presentation by John Fonweban, FAO Nigeria.

Promise U. Chukwu (ECN) spoke on “The role of parliamentarians in mitigating the mutual impacts of energy and climate change: challenges and prospects.” Mr. Chukwu mentioned that energy is an essential input for social development and economic growth. It provides basic needs and services such as heating, cooling, cooking, lighting and

transportation. It is a critical production factor in virtually all sectors of industry. According to the 2015 Paris Agreement, energy is the top priority sector for curbing GHG emissions. He outlined the main features of Nigeria's NDC: reducing its GHG emissions intensity of GDP by around 45% by 2030, with the reference case of 2010-2014, ending gas flaring by 2030, focusing on public transport, 13GW of off-grid solar, a 30% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, improvement of the electricity grid, reforestation and CSA, among others. He underscored the mutual impacts of energy and climate change. He described a series of measures designed for striking a balance between both factors in extraction/exploration, transformation, transport and utilization/end use. He mentioned the role of parliamentarians in legislation, oversight and budgeting, creating awareness and becoming ambassadors in their own constituencies. He detailed the challenges that lie on the road ahead. The greatest challenge will be to provide adequate, reliable, affordable and accessible energy for all while protecting the environment. He outlined a way forward, including coordinating different branches of government, setting regional targets, establishing a continent wide emissions trading system and capacity building initiatives such as the current workshop. Parliaments can consider energy-efficiency, renewable energy, and other opportunities to move towards reducing emissions from all known anthropogenic activities. Reviewing subsidies on energy services and products, adopting emission neutral technologies in providing energy services, while helping communities have access to energy, will have

environmental, social and economic benefits.

Bernard Obika (IMC Worldwide) opened his presentation on "Transport and the NDCs" by stating that the global urban population will transition from 54% of the world today to 70% by 2050. This means that in 35 years 2.5 billion more people will be living in cities. This growth will concentrate in Africa and Asia and in second tier cities (from 1 to 5 million inhabitants). We already have an urban crisis expressed in congestion, traffic fatalities and injuries, health issues, and climate change. Mr. Obika stressed that none of the world's largest 50 cities meet WHO air quality standards. Millions die every year as a consequence of emissions. Transport contributes 23% of global energy related GHG emissions. In order to meet the 1.5°C target called for in the Paris Agreement, transport GHG emissions must be reduced to around 2Gt a year by 2050. He emphasized that the NDCs lack ambition and comprehensiveness, setting us on a path to 2.7°C-3.7°C. This is particularly clear with regards to the transport sector. Only 8% of the NDCs propose transport sector emission reduction targets. He outlined what the next phase of NDCs should include regarding transport. He mentioned that the NDCs are not aligned with the SDGs in the transport sector. 5 SDG targets are directly related to transport and 7 others are indirectly related. As he overviewed possible solutions and opportunities, he said we must avoid and reduce the need for motorized travel, we must shift to more environmentally friendly means of transport and we must improve the energy efficiency standards of current

modes. He highlighted the Sustainable Mobility for All global initiative, an international consortium of leading transport organizations and agencies committed to speaking with one voice and acting collectively to transform the sector. He described the High Volume Transport Research for Action programme which he heads, which is supported by the UK Department for International Development. It is a 5-year applied research program that seeks to address the lack of an adequate evidence base for investment decisions by updating technical best practice for transport infrastructure in low-income countries and actively disseminating conclusions to authorities in those countries – including MPs.

Engr. Richards Okibe (UN Consultant) presented on “Business as usual scenario for all 5 NDC priority sectors: ensuring compliance.” He stressed the need for periodic checks in each country of all aspects of the productive sectors contemplated in the NDCs through MRV. These sectors are: a) industrial products and processing units, b) energy, c) waste, d) agriculture, forestry and other land use and e) transport. MRV measures are designed to help guide appropriate climate action on mitigation and adaptation. Mr. Okibe gave a detailed account of evaluation in all the abovementioned sectors. He emphasized the need for legislation and for baselines backed by policy to mandate compliance. He described the interplay between climate actions and private companies in the marketplace, which can lead to a win-win dynamic.

SESSION 6

Dr. Blossom Fondo (University of Yaounde II) opened her presentation on “Why does gender matter for NDC implementation?” by stressing that climate change is not gender neutral. 70% of those that earn less than \$1 a day are women, mostly working in the agricultural sector. Women have very limited ownership of property. As a result of this, women are highly dependent on natural resources that are susceptible to climate variability. She characterized gender as both a strategy and a goal. Climate change impacts such as water scarcity, land degradation and deforestation affect women more. She detailed the impacts of climate change on women regarding crop failure, fuel shortage, water, resource scarcity, natural disasters, disease and displacement, emphasizing that climate change exacerbates the cycle of poverty. Women are integral to meeting the NDCs. Women play core roles in sectors such as agriculture, livestock management, water management and healthcare; they are knowledgeable in local survival strategies that constitute main elements of recovery and resilience; this knowledge is a valuable resource and should inform adaptation measures, regarding sowing seasons, multi-cropping, local crops, herb varieties, crops suitable to climatic conditions and seed selection, among others. The UNFCCC has underscored key gender aspects of climate change action, stating that gender equality must be integrated into climate change policies, strategies and programmes. Among several recommendations for action, Dr. Fondo mentioned integrating gender perspectives into mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and gender

budgeting: “a new strategy to bring gender equality objectives into budgets and into financial policies.” She suggested that the NDCs represent an opportunity to revisit national priorities on gender. A gender approach to climate change will not only reduce gender inequality but also have an environmental impact.



Dr. Blossom Fondo, Associate Professor, University of Yaounde II, Soa.

During her talk on “Mainstreaming gender in Africa’s NDCs: role of parliamentarians”, **Dr. Priscilla M. Achakpa** (Women Environmental Programme) highlighted that the UNFCCC has made concerted efforts to focus on and address women’s rights and gender equality with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. So has the African Union. She underscored the importance of the African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC), established in 2014. She enumerated the climate change policies and strategies in Africa. She outlined a series of principles and minimum criteria for a gender-responsive climate change policy or strategy, which must be evidence-based, include positive social and gender norms, have equality

benefits, include participation, include needs assessment and analysis, involve strategic planning and implementation, and also monitoring and evaluation. She provided detailed gendered analysis of the NDCs of 5 African countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria and Ghana. She outlined the characteristics of the COP 23 Gender Action Plan: a) capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and communication, b) gender balance, participation and women’s leadership, c) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation and d) monitoring and reporting. She emphasized the critical role of parliamentarians in the integration and implementation of gender issues into the NDCs. She concluded by remarking that gender responsive policy needs strengthening in all activities relating to adaptation and mitigation and that women should participate in decision making on the implementation of climate policies.

SESSION 7

Hon. Babatunde Olatunji (Osun House of Assembly, Nigeria) opened the session dedicated to “Strengthening the role of parliamentarians in African climate action” by presenting on “Parliamentary oversight of national climate action.” He highlighted the fact that 7 out of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world are in Africa, where the effects of climate disruption, from desertification and droughts to floods and heat waves, are already visible. Parliamentary oversight is a fundamental check and balance, as it improves the efficiency and effectiveness of governmental operations by evaluating performance. There have been growing

demands for improvement in parliamentary oversight. Parliaments are expected to assume a greater responsibility in policy formulation and to actively oversee the implementation of laws and policies. Mr. Olatunji mentioned several key enablers to parliamentary oversight: capacity building, partnerships, funding and political will. He recommended a bottom-up approach, domestic adoption of relevant laws and treaties, the establishment of climate change parliamentary evaluation desk offices and that MPs act as climate change ambassadors.

SESSION 8

Dr. Eugene Itua (Natural Eco Capital) kick-started the final session with a presentation on “Galvanizing parliamentary support for national climate action.” His talk focused on motivating the MPs to take concrete action in their own countries, based on what they have learned in the workshop. He achieved this through a series of rhetorical questions designed to mobilize their commitment to act. He stressed that climate change poses one of the greatest threats to the prosperity of Africa, that its impacts seriously challenge the ability to achieve the SDGs since it exacerbates the cycle of poverty, and that it creates opportunities to meet many of those goals. He urged the MPs to take responsibility, share the outcome of the workshop, build awareness in their own countries, promote regional partnerships, push for legislation, use budgetary and oversight powers, put pressure on the executive branches and play an active role in setting up an African Legislative Climate Action Plan.

The final session was mostly dedicated to a roundtable discussion on national plans and commitments for action, in which all of **the MPs** in attendance had an opportunity to address the session. The MPs expressed great appreciation for the workshop as a key step for climate advocacy in their own countries, and several of them warmly thanked the organizers, as the presentations and discussions provided a steep learning curve for many MPs. It was suggested that a larger number of legislators per country should be invited to future workshops. Some MPs requested support for a focal point in their own countries. Advocacy will spread faster if also carried out in state legislatures, not only at the level of national parliaments. It was agreed that the parliamentarians have a critical role to play, through legislation (following the example of Nigeria) and mobilizing political will. MPs have a responsibility beyond policy formulation, through oversight. It was suggested that there should be a process of decentralizing capacity building, spreading the message to the grassroots level. The next workshop might involve other stakeholders. It was also suggested that staff support could be provided in some national parliaments. There is a need to organize similar workshops in each country. Several MPs agreed to brief colleagues in their own countries, and to aim for more fluid relations with national environment agencies. There was a discussion about funding, in which Anthony Nyong’s presentation about mobilizing domestic resources was highlighted as particularly relevant. It was suggested that an African COP should be organized each year before the actual COP. Some MPs underscored the

gender issue and committed to promote its inclusion in the next round of NDCs.



Nick Dunlop stated that this workshop should be the beginning of a process, a series of meetings that, in the Climate Parliament's experience, can yield excellent results. One relevant next step would be the production of written materials: toolkits written by experts that outline simple steps the legislators can take to monitor implementation of NDCs and increase the ambition of the next round of NDCs in 2020. Innocent Onah reiterated his proposal of establishing an African Parliamentary Climate Action Plan, focused on domestic mobilization of resources, budgeting and setting up

collaboration between different stakeholders.

In his brief closing remarks, **Al-Hamndou Dorsouma** (AfDB) stated that this regional workshop could mark the beginning of a coalition between the AfDB, ECOWAS, the Climate Parliament and GLOBE Nigeria, a coalition that would also include the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. He alluded to the importance of adequate written material (workshop report, toolkits, policy briefs) and he also mentioned the proposed African Parliamentary Climate Action Plan (ACLA).

Dr. Johnson Boanuh (ECOWAS) highlighted the importance of the positive feedback given by the MPs and their appreciation of the workshop expressed during the closing session. For many of them it has been a first opportunity to be involved in a regional workshop, he said. It has been a learning opportunity, providing actionable ideas to move forward on climate action.

3. ACTION POINTS

The following action points received broad support among the participants:

- **Action by MPs in national parliaments:** legislation, budgets and oversight.
- **Explore the possibility of organizing a series of workshops** to create a core group of knowledgeable, motivated legislators that can make a difference in their respective countries across Africa.
- **Toolkits for parliamentary action in Africa** on NDCs in relation to renewable energy, mini-grids, transport, gender issues, etc.
- **Prepare the African Legislative Climate Action Plan (ALCA)** for approval at the next meeting.
- **Establish a close collaboration** between GLOBE Nigeria, APPEL and the Climate Parliament.



ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **Hahma Abashe**, ECOWAS Parliament Secretariat
2. **Priscilla Achakpa**, Women Environmental Programme
3. **Philip Acquah**, Consultant, ECOWAS
4. **Adesegun Abdel-Majid Adekoya MP**, Nigeria
5. **Fadekunayo Adeniyi**, AfDB
6. **Jérémie Adomahou MP**, Benin
7. **Victoria Bunmi Afolayam MP**, Kwara State House of Assembly, Nigeria
8. **Fatimah Aluali**, AfDB
9. **Assewouwokan Apekey MP**, ECOWAS Parliament
10. **Johnson Boanuh**, Director, Environment Directorate, ECOWAS
11. **R.I.O. Brown MP**, Nigeria
12. **Blessing Chika Chuke**, ECOWAS
13. **Promise Chukwu**, Energy Commission of Nigeria
14. **Moustapha Cissé Lo MP**, Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament
15. **Ibrahim Tawa Conteh MP**, Sierra Leone
16. **Bougonou Kouarrivi Djeri-Alassani**, ECOWAS
17. **Al-Hamndou Dorsouma**, AfDB
18. **Nicholas Dunlop**, Climate Parliament
19. **Lawrence Ezeudu MP**, State Legislator, Nigeria
20. **Ebrima Faal**, AfDB
21. **Amos Fabulous MP**, State Legislator, Nigeria
22. **Blossom Fondo**, University of Yaounde II
23. **John Fonweban**, FAO
24. **Gaza Gbefwi MP**, Nigeria
25. **Abashe Halima MP**, ECOWAS Parliament
26. **Leonard Hasu**, Pheebes Consult
27. **Mohammed Hopa**, ECOWAS
28. **Hadassah Benson Igbanoi**, GLOBE Nigeria
29. **Itua**, CEO, Natural Eco Capital
30. **Sau Jhaluk Bolu**, ECOWAS
31. **Samuel Jinavu**, CSDEONET
32. **Yao Bernard Koffi**, ECOWAS
33. **Mohamed Komara**, Climate Parliament
34. **Timothy A. Koomson**, AfDB
35. **Konan Raoul Kouame**, ECOWAS
36. **Terna Kester Kyenge MP**, State Legislator, Nigeria
37. **Joy H. Makeri MP**, Nigeria
38. **Sergio Missana**, Climate Parliament
39. **Ibn Ahmed Mohammed**, Kwara State House of Assembly, Nigeria
40. **Badiaya Moussa MP**, Mali

41. **Leko Moussa**, ECOWAS
42. **Fatoumatta Njai MP**, The Gambia
43. **Anthony Nyong**, AfDB
44. **Bernard Obika**, IMC Worldwide
45. **Senator Foster Ogola**, Nigeria
46. **Wale Okediran**, Climate Parliament
47. **Richards Okibe**, SEPAN
48. **Babatunde 'Lekan Olatunji MP**, Osun State House of Assembly, Nigeria
49. **Yewande Olu-Ibukun**, ECOWAS Parliament Secretariat
50. **Innocent Onah**, GLOBE Nigeria
51. **Senator Sam Onuigbo**, Nigeria
52. **Chidi Onuoha**, GLOBE Nigeria
53. **Magnus Onuoha**, SEPAN
54. **Kelechi Onuzuruike MP**, State Legislator, Nigeria
55. **Ayala Ibrahim Rambai**, GSHA
56. **George Samah MP**, Liberia
57. **Yacouba Sangaré MP**, Ivory Coast
58. **Sekou Sangaré**, Commissioner, ECOWAS
59. **Biyika Lawrence Songa MP**, Uganda
60. **Jitu Soni MP**, Tanzania
61. **Arona Soumaré**, AfDB
62. **Yerima Peter Tarfa**, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
63. **Ugochukwu Temple**, GLOBE Nigeria
64. **Mamadou Lamine Thiam MP**, Senegal
65. **Senator Oluremi Tinubu**, Nigeria
66. **Salia Togola MP**, Mali
67. **Sainey Touray MP**, Gambia
68. **Dominic Ucha MP**, State Legislator, Nigeria
69. **Sani Umar MP**, Nigeria



ANNEX 2. PROGRAM

Opening session

Welcoming remarks:

Sékou Sangaré, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS Commission

Ebrima Faal, Country Director for Nigeria, AfDB

John Fonweban, FAO Nigeria

Dr. Peter Tarfa, Director, Climate Change Department, Federal Ministry of Environment

Honorable Moustapha Cissé Lo, Speaker, ECOWAS Parliament

Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment, representing the President of the Senate of Nigeria

Introduction

Overview of workshop objectives: Presentation and expectations from Parliamentarians

Anthony Nyong, Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, AfDB

Session 1: Overview of NDCs in Africa: Understanding the Paris Agreement

Opening presentation: NDCs, 1.5 °C and the role of parliamentarians

Nicholas Dunlop, Secretary-General, Climate Parliament

Discussion and commentary

Dr. Peter Tarfa

Dr. Chidi M. Onuoha, Consultant, GLOBE Nigeria

Session 2: Mobilizing resources for NDC implementation in Africa

Climate finance and investment: Opportunities for implementing NDCs in Africa

Timothy Afful Koomson, Chief Climate Officer, Climate Finance Division, AfDB

Mobilization of domestic resources: The role of parliamentarians

Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank

Session 3: Parliamentary action on climate change in Africa: Success stories

The experience of the Alliance of Parliamentarians of Coastal Countries of West Africa (APPEL)

Mamadou Lamine Thiam MP, Senegal

Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change

Lawrence Songa MP, Uganda

Reducing the cost of solar through tax-exemptions

Jitu Soni MP, Tanzania

Climate Change Legislation Framework Legislation

Senator Sam Onuigbo, Nigeria

Session 4: Roundtable discussion on coordinating the actions of parliamentary initiatives: Challenges and opportunities for synergies

Coordination of MP initiatives: Challenges and perspectives

Innocent Onah, National Coordinator, GLOBE Nigeria

Session 5: Overview of NDCs in key sectors

Agriculture and food security under the NDCs

John Fonweban, FAO

Energy and climate change

Promise U. Chukwu, Energy Commission of Nigeria

Transport and climate change

Bernard Obika, Team Leader, IMC Worldwide

Ensuring compliance for effective implementation

Engr. Richards Okibe, UN Consultant

Session 6. Mainstreaming gender in Africa's NDCs: Role of parliamentarians

Why gender matters for NDC implementation

Dr. Blossom Fondo, Associate Professor, University of Yaounde II, Soa

Mainstreaming gender in Africa's NDCs: Role of parliamentarians

Dr. Priscilla M. Achakpa, Executive Director, Women Environmental Programme

Session 7: Strengthening the role of parliamentarians in African climate action

Parliamentary oversight of implementation

Hon. Babatunde Olatunji, Member, Osun House of Assembly

Session 8: Roundtable discussion on national plans and commitments for action and closing remarks

Galvanizing parliamentary support for national climate action

Dr. Eugene Itua, CEO, Eco Natural Capital, Lagos, Nigeria

Roundtable discussion: Lesson sharing and cross-border collaboration among MPs

Closing remarks:

Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Division Manager, Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB

Dr. Johnson Boanuh, Director, Environment Directorate, ECOWAS.