

Africa Climate Week 2019 Ghana

Regional Dialogue on NDCs for Africa Report from the session

18-19 March 2019
09:00 – 18:00

[DRAFT AS OF 14 MARCH]

Summary

The Regional Dialogue on NDCs for Africa will be organized as part of Africa Climate Week in Ghana. The dialogue is co-organized by UNDP, UN Climate Change, and the African Development Bank – in collaboration with the NDC Partnership – and is supported by the European Commission and the Governments of Germany, Japan, and Norway.

The dialogue will convene approximately 150 participants, including representatives of almost 50 countries from the region, development partners, the private sector, and other institutions involved in NDC implementation. It will build on past NDC Regional Dialogues hosted by UNDP and UN Climate Change around the world and will support countries in the process of implementing NDCs and preparing next-generation NDCs with increased coverage, clarity, and ambition. The 20th such dialogue in the series, the Accra event aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Introduce and discuss the outcomes of COP-24, including those outcomes from the Paris Agreement Work Programme and the Talanoa Dialogue that are relevant for the preparation of future NDCs and implementation of ambitious climate action;
2. Jointly consider the gap to meet the long-term goal and the need and avenues for raising national, regional, and global ambition;
3. Exchange experiences and lessons learned to address challenges relating to NDC preparation, implementation, and finance; and
4. Discuss synergistic implementation of NDCs, national development plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The two-day dialogue will employ a number of formats (panel discussions, presentations, small interactive exercises, breakout sessions, a World Café, a “Challenge Buster” exercise, etc.) to facilitate an exchange of experiences among peer countries on NDC implementation and enhancement, including challenges and solutions in these processes.

Speakers include a number of African government representatives and institutions such as the African Union Commission, the World Resources Institute (WRI), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Local Government for Sustainability (ICLEI), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), the NDC Partnership, Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), the West African Development Bank (BOAD), Société Générale and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ).

Key Messages

The NDC dialogue will emphasize a number of key messages, including:

- Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement is currently hindered by a global ambition gap.
- The enhancement of NDCs (in terms of coverage, clarity, and ambition) in 2020 can help close this gap. Three important areas that offer opportunities for next-generation NDCs include: energy transition; agriculture and nature-based solutions; and cities and local action.
- The development of long-term strategies presents an opportunity for longer-term planning and can inform the development of shorter-term NDCs. Improving the synergies between NDCs, national development plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals can further contribute to this process.
- Countries in the region are making important progress in implementing current NDCs, including establishing governance structures, tracking systems, and financial mechanisms.
- The Africa region has an important opportunity to leapfrog (in the context of investment/infrastructure decisions) and achieve the low-GHG, climate-resilient development envisioned in the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, etc.
- Finance must be mobilized at scale in order to achieve ambitious climate action in the region.

Contribution to UN SG summit/Ambition

The NDC dialogue will emphasize the current ambition gap in meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and avenues for raising national, regional, and global ambition. It will look at 2020 as an important milestone in closing this ambition gap. In addition to the global context, it will explore opportunities for the region to leapfrog investment and infrastructure decisions to achieve its long-term, low-GHG, climate-resilient development vision.

The dialogue will also explore the need to mobilize finance; improve synergies between development and climate processes; and plan longer term in order to enhance ambition. A breakout session on energy transition; agriculture and nature-based solutions; and cities and local action will also serve to identify specific opportunities for the region in enhancing the coverage, clarity, and ambition of next-generation NDCs. In doing so, these discussions will contribute to the SG's summit on ambition.

Technical Examination Processes

The NDC dialogue will explore policy options for enhancing mitigation and adaptation. For example, a breakout discussion on energy transition will look at opportunities for moving away from fossil fuels in the context of improving energy access and achieving the Paris Agreement's goals. Another breakout discussion will demonstrate opportunities for improving the sustainability of agricultural practices in the region and how these considerations can be included in next-generation NDCs. Financing for adaptation will also be considered during the dialogue. For example, Agence Francaise de Development will present on financial instruments that can be employed in the context of adaptation.