



ZIMBABWE

Ministry Environment, Water and Climate

Report

on the

**Twenty-Second Conference of Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)**

07 - 18 November 2016

Marrakesh, Morocco

A. Introduction

The Twenty-second Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) was held from 7 to 18 November 2016 at Bab Ighli in Marrakesh, Morocco. The global climate change agenda was centred on adaptation and mitigation. Climate change adaptation refers to taking practical actions to manage risks from climate impacts, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy. Mitigation means dealing with the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

The negotiations were aimed at enhancing both adaptation and mitigation actions, bearing in mind the historical responsibilities of developed countries in causing the current climate change and the need for these countries to finance adaptation in developing countries.

Also of particular interest, was the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016, which is much earlier than the expected year of entry into force in 2020. The implications of uncertainties and expectations from Parties of early entry into force were among the crucial issues that needed to be clarified in the negotiations.

A total of seventy heads of state and government attended the high-level segment of COP22 and the first conference of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CAM1) and came up with a proclamation on climate change. The Conference concluded early Saturday morning, 19th November 2016, with negotiators from around 196 countries setting a deadline of 2018 to finalise the rule book. The rulebook is a set of modalities, procedures and guidelines for operationalising the Paris Agreement.

B. Composition of the Zimbabwe Delegation

The Zimbabwe delegation to COP22 was headed by His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe, who attended the High Level Segment on 15 November 2016. The delegation of over 60 participants consisted of experienced negotiators, Senior Government Officials, Private Sector and

Civil Society. The delegation comprised of government officials from the following:

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate;
- Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development;
- Ministry of Energy and Power Development;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development.

In addition, the following were part of the delegation:

- The Chairperson of the High Level Committee on Climate Change in the Office of the President and Cabinet,
- Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Environment, Water, Tourism and Hospitality Industry;
- Representatives of the business community and;
- Civil Society Organisations.

C. Summary of Outcomes of COP22 Negotiations

1. Preparations for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement

The Conference agreed that a joint meeting with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in November 2017 at COP23, to review progress on the implementation of the work programme under the Paris Agreement.

The Conference also agreed to conclude the work programme under the Paris Agreement as soon as possible and to forward the outcomes, at the latest, to the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to be convened in November 2018, for its consideration and adoption. However, this did not auger well with the small island states that have ratified the Paris Agreement and want to benefit before other developing Parties jump into the ship.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement was requested to continue its consideration of possible additional matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and to accelerate work and

forward the outcomes at the latest to the third part of CMA1 at the COP24 in December 2018.

2. Adaptation versus Mitigation

Negotiations at COP22 indicated a bias towards the mitigation aspects of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Paris Agreement to the detriment of adaptation. At COP22, Africa continued the push for the crystallization of adaptation action for achieving tangible and concrete action for vulnerable communities. Transparency in additional support provided for adaptation and a clear definition of what constitutes climate finance remain critical issues for future discussions. Although developing country parties acknowledge the increase in adaptation finance, the general consensus is that more needs to be done to bring adaptation to the same level as mitigation.

3. Finance

Finance has remained a controversial issue with little progress with little progress being achieved at this COP. Parties agreed to continue discussing it.

Developed countries were urged to continue scaling up their financial contributions towards the pre-agreed “\$100bn a year by 2020” goal, and to achieve a greater balance between adaptation and mitigation. As developing countries we had hoped for stronger wording on this, since adaptation has long trailed mitigation, to the detriment of the most vulnerable countries.

4. Adaptation Fund

Over USD80 million was pledged to the Adaptation Fund, including USD50 million from Germany alone. There was general consensus that the Adaptation Fund should serve the Paris Agreement, hence, the Conference requested the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to consider the necessary preparatory work on the Adaptation Fund to address the

governance and institutional arrangements, safeguards and operating modalities to serve the Paris Agreement.

5. Facilitative Dialogue for the Global Stocktake

Parties will congregate in 2018 for a facilitative dialogue to discuss the nature of the Global Stocktake (GST) to start in 2023. The GST aims to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement including the provision of support from the developed to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.

The COP requested the COP22 President, in collaboration with the incoming COP23 President, to undertake inclusive and transparent consultations with parties on the organization of the facilitative dialogue and to jointly report to COP23 on the preparations for the dialogue.

On the same matter, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decision to request its Secretariat to “prepare proposals for aligning the work of the IPCC during its seventh assessment report with the needs of the global stocktake foreseen under the Paris Agreement and to submit these proposals for consideration at a plenary session of the IPCC no later than 2018”. SBSTA encouraged the IPCC to continue this consideration, with a view to ensuring that the global stocktake is always informed in a timely manner by the best available science.

Parties agreed that in 2018, the Rulebook for implementation of the Paris Agreement will be finalized and a global review of climate action will take place on the basis of the most up-to-date analysis, with a strong expectation that countries scale up their commitments. It was decided that the presidents of COP22 and the forthcoming COP23 would consult with countries on the organisation of this dialogue and report back on their findings in a year’s time. A key theme of COP22 was debating how best to create a fair “rulebook” that all countries could share and have confidence in when assessing each other’s climate pledges. The

technicalities of the rulebook – baselines, methodologies, etc – will be a continuing discussion into 2018.

6. Pre-2020 Ambition of Parties to Address the Climate Change Challenges

At COP22, the entry into force of the Paris Agreement over-shadowed the mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation commitments made for the pre-2020 period including the pledge to progressively increase climate finance to developing countries to 100 billion USD per annum by the year 2020. The fulfilment of this obligation by developed country Parties will continue to be a topic on the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) agenda in the upcoming intersessional talks in May 2017. The COP requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis of the biennial submissions from developed country parties on updated strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance from 2014 to 2020.

There will be in-session workshops on long-term climate finance in 2017 and 2018 focusing on experiences and lessons learned from articulating and translating needs identified in country-driven processes into projects and programmes, roles of policies and enabling environments for mitigation and adaptation finance, and facilitating enhanced access. The COP requested the Secretariat to organize these workshops and ensure they are attended by both public and private sector actors, and prepare summary reports.

7. Operationalizing the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage

Some progress was made towards the operationalization of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM). The COP approved the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan as the basis for developing corresponding activities, starting at the first meeting of the WIM executive committee in 2017, taking into account relevant inputs provided by parties and organizations. The COP requested the executive committee to include in its five-year rolling

workplan a strategic workstream to guide the implementation of the WIM's function of enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The committee was also requested to start the work on establishing a clearinghouse for risk transfer and establishing a task force to avert, minimize, and address displacement.

8. Clean Development Mechanism

COP22 illustrated sharp differences in the interests of developing countries with regards to the future of emissions trading under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) with China and Brazil against the continued issuance of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). Furthermore, parties differed on baseline and monitoring methodologies; registration of project activities and issuance of CERs; regional and sub-regional distribution; the CDM Loan Scheme; and resources for work on the CDM. Parties could not reach agreement on voluntary cancellation; international aviation issues; references to the GCF; restrictive practices; length of crediting periods; and relevance of the CDM in the context of Paris Agreement Article 6 on cooperative approaches. CDM has now become one of the most contentious issues under the negotiations.

9. Reduction of Emissions from Forestry

Climate change mitigation and adaptation through the forestry sector remains a key part of the climate action considered by developing country parties. A draft text was concluded and submitted to the COP in Marrakech. This will allow discussions on revegetation, agroforestry and restoration of degraded ecosystems as CDM projects to continue at COP23.

10. Matters Related to Agriculture

Developed country Parties were pushing for the recognition of emission reduction activities in the agriculture sector and to enable them to be accounted for under mitigation. However, developing country parties

insisted that mitigation should be considered as a co-benefit resulting from carrying out adaptation activities. Because of the divergent views, Parties failed to reach consensus and agreed to continue exchanging notes for further discussion to come up with a draft text for COP's consideration at COP23 in 2017

11. Gender Considerations under the UNFCCC

The COP requested the Secretariat to prepare a technical paper identifying entry points for integrating gender considerations in workstreams under the UNFCCC process for consideration by SBI 48. More importantly, the COP requested the Financial Mechanism and its operating entities to include, in their respective annual reports to the COP, information on the integration of gender considerations in all aspects of their work. The Secretariat is going to convene an in-session workshop during SBI46 to develop possible elements of the gender action plan for consideration by SBI47; and invites submissions from parties, by 25 January 2017, on their views on the matters to be addressed at the in-session workshop.

12. Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency

Africa still needs capacity building including for needs assessment for adaptation, mitigation and transparency as well as education, training and public awareness. COP22 saw progress in the establishment of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

The COP adopted the Terms of Reference for the PCCB, and reaffirmed that the objective of the PCCB is to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity building in developing countries. COP25 will review the progress, need for extension, the effectiveness and enhancement of the PCCB and that the PCCB will manage and oversee the 2016-2020 capacity building work plan. COP requested the PCCB to further develop and adopt its working modalities and procedures at its first meeting, and the SBI to organize the first meeting of the PCCB in conjunction with SBI46.

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) was resourced at Marrakesh with USD50 million that was pledged by Australia, Canada and Germany. The initiative will ensure adequate capacity building with respect to the compliance framework and the public registry. A Capacity Building committee will be put to work next year to provide financial and technological support for the Paris Agreement.

D. Other Issues

Other important issues that come out of the Marrakesh Talks are as follows:

1. Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action

The high level Climate Change Champions that were appointed by the UN Secretary General released a note recommending the launch of the 'Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action' which would encourage countries, cities, states and businesses to scale up commitments before 2020. A strategy to help boost cooperative global action between governments, cities, business, investors and citizens in the wake of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, with an emphasis on cohesive, innovative and practical solutions to cut global emissions rapidly and also help the most vulnerable adapt to climate impacts and build their own clean energy futures was launched. The pillars of this partnership will be hinged on four thematic areas namely; Energy, Forestry, Water and Agriculture.

2. NDC Partnership

The NDC Partnership – a new coalition of developing and developed countries and international institutions working together to ensure countries receive the technical and financial support – was also launched.

3. 2050 Pathways Platform

COP22 also saw the launch of a 2050 Pathways Platform by Climate Champions Laurence Tubiana and Hakima el Haité to help countries learn from each other and receive support as they develop their long-term plans. These plans will be designed to take the world through to net zero emissions in the second half of the century. To get there, countries are to submit long term plans to that end.

More than 20 countries joined this initiative together with 15 cities, 17 states & regions and 196 businesses. The US, Germany, Canada and Mexico put forward the first iteration of their 2050 plans at COP22.

E. Africa Initiatives

Africa Day on 16 November 2016 is the day when the continent was in the spotlight at the COP22 meetings in Marrakech. The event was attended by several African leaders, including Alpha Condé, President of Guinea and African Union Coordinator for Renewable Energy; Faure Gnassingbé, President of Togo; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia; Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of Botswana; and a broad range of stakeholders and partners to give political momentum to Africa's needs to implement its commitments.

The African continent called for the developed countries to fulfill their COP21 pledges to light Africa. The two flagship programmes for Africa which will be implemented through a range of partnerships include the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and Africa Adaptation Initiative. The Governments of Germany and France pledged US\$3 billion and US\$2billion dollars respectively. The G7 committed US\$10billion to support the initiatives.

F. Marrakech High Level Action Proclamation

The Marrakech was more notable for the action that took place outside the negotiations, with politicians, countries and organisations using it as an opportunity to announce new initiatives, strategy and finance.

The Marrakech Action Proclamation, issued by heads of state and government gathered at the COP, was widely seen as a reaffirmation of global commitment to the Paris Agreement, despite the uncertainties shrouded in the USA politics where the incoming US presidency had earlier on expressed intentions to pull out of the Paris Agreement. “We welcome the Paris Agreement...and we affirm our commitment to its full implementation,” the proclamation says demonstrated global commitment to address climate challenges. Please refer to Annex I for the full text of the proclamation.

His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe gave his outstanding statement, recognizing that COP22 will be decisive in providing the foundations and in giving the essential orientations to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, calling for the common but differentiated responsibilities to remain undiluted and unqualified. He emphasized that adaptation remains a priority for Zimbabwe although the country is willing to join other nations in carrying out mitigation actions. His statement was well received by many Parties and there was an immense applaud from the audience.

The Africa Climate Summit was held on the 16th of November 2016 and was attended by different heads of state and government and ministers. A declaration was made at this summit that commits African states to speed up the implementation of initiatives already identified through building on own resources, mobilizing bilateral and multilateral funding and well as non-state actors engagement. The initiatives identified included the:

- Africa Adaptation Initiative;
- Adaptation of African Agriculture initiative (Tripple A);
- The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Project;
- Security, Stability and Sustainability Initiative;
- Rural Resilience Initiative;
- Forests in the Mediterranean Region and Sahel Initiative; and
- Initiatives in favour of African sustainable co-emergence (Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, Conservation of the Lake Chad Basin Ecosystem and the Blue Growth Initiative)

Of great concern was the issue of Security, Stability and Sustainability Initiative which Zimbabwe felt it was not consulted on and the establishment of three committees which were Sahel, Central Africa and Small Islands Committees which excluded Southern Africa to benefit from this climate summit initiative with France pledging to mobilize resources. The clear alliance and engagement of French speaking countries and exclusion of most Southern African Countries was of great concern to Zimbabwe.

G. Bilateral Meetings

Zimbabwe held a number of bilateral meetings with Partners including SNV, World Bank, Africa Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, Africa Risk Capacity, Global Green Growth Institute and Care International. Africa Development Bank is the host of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative hence there is need for the country to be strategic to access this funding for renewable energy actions in the country. The Africa Development Bank also houses the Climate and Development Special Fund which support small grants adaptation programmes in countries and the Enable Youth Agriculture Fund for value chain marketing, African Finance Organisation for women in Africa, A new initiative and Global Agriculture Food and Security Fund and Agriculture Fast Track Fund.

Zimbabwe is expecting to access the first batch of US\$100 000 following a bilateral with the Green Climate Fund that the countries readiness support of \$300 000 was approved and disbursement will be done soon. The country is also working on a US\$3million National Adaptation Plan Development Process and US\$80million adaptation project for the Southern Part of Zimbabwe.

H. Challenges in relation to the Negotiations

The early entry into force of the Paris Agreement has over-shadowed other critical issues. As in previous COPs there still remains lack of clarity and certainty on climate finance pledged for climate action in developing countries. There is a danger of the pre-2020 ambition being ignored with the entry into force of the Paris Agreement as the developed countries are generally not in favor of the Kyoto Protocol and its Doha Amendment.

So far 73 parties have ratified the amendment out of the required 144 parties to enable it to enter into force. The reasons for the slow progress in Doha Amendment ratification are centered on the provisions that require only developed countries to reduce greenhouse emissions up to 2020 in recognition of their greater historical contribution to the global climate challenge. This affects the transparency framework as well as trust around the Paris Agreement.

As of 23 November 2016, 113 Parties have ratified, of 197 Parties to the Convention to the UNFCCC representing over 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions have ratified the Paris Agreement according to the UNFCCC Secretariat. At the continental level, about half of African countries have so far ratified the treaty. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius and Swaziland have ratified the agreement.

However, the positions of some countries that have been considered by the UNFCCC Secretariat as having ratified the agreement are not clear. For example, the United States of America accepted the Paris Agreement but has not yet gone through the process of ratification of the Agreement in Congress, and so is the case with Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Iceland and a couple others.

The new political dispensation in the United States of America also brings uncertainty in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In addition, developed countries have shown intent at this conference to continuously narrow the aspect of differentiated responsibilities in light of national capabilities and circumstances as envisaged under the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

I. Implications of the COP22 outcomes for Zimbabwe

- i. The decision to have the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement convening its first session in 2018 is welcome to Zimbabwe and other African states that are yet to ratify the Paris Agreement as it gives room for ratification without haste.

- ii. The country can also participate in the development of the rulebook under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) without discrimination since APA was created by the Climate Change Convention and not the Paris Agreement.
- iii. The country needs to follow the discussions closely in order for Zimbabwe to be fully prepared to showcase the informed and well-consulted implementation framework for the Paris Agreement.

J. Future negotiations and conclusion

There is need for Parties especially developing countries to watch out on the new issues starting to emerge as suggestions particularly from the developed country Parties to include human rights, Sustainability, Stability and Security (SSS) which focus on the need to stabilize areas that are prone to migration, fight influence of terrorists and human traffickers, educate young people and create jobs. This may increase the levels of subjectivity by the multilateral and bilateral funding mechanisms when selecting projects for funding and discussing security issues under environmental multilateral agreements may not be the right platform. Zimbabwe should be strategic when engaging in such contentious issues.

It is also important to take note that as countries scramble to ratify the Paris Agreement, concern on the slow pace at which parties are ratifying the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol should be taken seriously. The amendment seeks to extend the lifespan of the Kyoto Protocol to 2020. The Protocol had emission reduction targets for developed countries which were not met during its first commitment period from 2007 to 2012.

It would have been prudent for Africa or at least the SADC region to analyse critically the Paris Agreement, perhaps delay the ratification in order to strengthening the bargaining platform with developed countries as the rule book is under development. Now that the rush to sign the Agreement has gained high momentum, it complicates the status of those who choose to remain out of the agreement.

Climate change is a development issue of the future and its incorporation into the SADC framework will be vital if the region intends to collectively fight the climate change challenge towards climate resilience in the region.

K. Side Events

Outside the negotiation sessions at COP 22, there were other side events organized by the UN, CSOs, business representative organizations and other Parties. At some of the events, contacts were made with cooperating organizations seeking bilateral collaborative initiatives.

1. Zimbabwe Climate Smart Agriculture Side Event

The Government of Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) organized a side event titled: “Accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement through regional Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approaches: How East and Southern Africa are equipping farmers to deal with the impacts of climate change”. The event was officially opened by the Honourable Minister for Environment, Water and Climate Cde O.C.Z. Muchinguri. Panelists at the side event were drawn from the Governments of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania.

The representatives shared their experiences in relation the implementation of climate smart agriculture in their respective countries. This included potential financing mechanisms to implement CSA, the use of micro-credit schemes, collaborative efforts between government, private sector and CSOs as well as setting up the right policy framework for CSA to succeed. The side event marked the beginning of a regional approach to climate smart agriculture in which resource mobilization platforms, best practices, climate smart technologies, innovations and experiences are shared across borders in the Southern African region.

2. Follow up Issues in REDD+ Forestry

The major focus in the forest sector was on the REDD+ mechanism. Given that Zimbabwe has just completed its national country needs assessment for REDD+ activities, the next steps include the development of a

monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for evaluating the activities. GAF, a German research organization expressed interest to collaborate with Zimbabwe on the development of an MRV system for REDD+.

The same organization has previously assisted the Forestry Commission in training staff in forest inventories using GIS and remote sensing technology. Further bilateral meetings were held with Practical Action on REDD+ MRV. Further discussion on the possibility of capacitating communities adjacent to forest areas so that they are able to measure their own carbon stocks under the eco-village concept will be held after COP22.

3. Africa Renewable Energy Initiative

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) was launched by African Heads of State in Paris, France during COP21 in December 2015. AREI is a transformative, Africa owned and Africa-led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential. At COP22 the AREI was elaborated to African Countries with the aim of ensuring that there is speed uptake of renewable energy in the continent. The initiative has some funds already pledged by developed countries. Zimbabwean benefit from the initiative in implementing the NDC targets given the fact that the country's mitigation target is predominantly renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate and the Ministry of Energy and Power Development need to pursue this initiative so that the country can start to benefit and implement some of the renewable energy actions identified in the NDC.

4. Membership Application to the Global Green Growth Initiative

The Ministry initiated discussion with the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI) during COP22 on the possibility of cooperating on the Low Emission Development Strategy for Zimbabwe. GGGI is an international organisation whose aim is to assist member countries in the development and implementation on the Low Emission Development Strategies. Currently Zimbabwe is not a member of GGGI. GGGI will send some membership information for consideration by the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Membership is

essential for assisting the country in the development and implementation of its Low Emission Development Strategy.

5. Climate Technology Side events and Bilateral meetings

The UNFCCC Technology Mechanism consists of the Technology Executive Committee which gives policy direction, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) which is the operational arm and the CTCN Advisory Board. CTCN, which provides technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries held several side events which were beneficial to, attended by and presented by Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe was part of the High Level Panel on the technology-mechanism Side event entitled enhancing-climate-technology-development-and-transfer. The event informed delegates that technical assistance requests can come from sub-national authorities, as long as they are submitted through the National Designated Entity (NDE), address climate issues. They however emphasized that resources available allow each country to have at most 2 projects at a time, although a country can have a pipeline of projects. These requests must lead to Sustainable Development and form the basis for multilateral investment. One immediate outcome of this event was the announcement of a \$US25 million pledge for Climate Technology Centre and Network activities, which countries can apply for.

6. Zimbabwe's engagement with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) Secretariat

Zimbabwe delegation held bilateral meeting with the CTCN. The CTCN proposed the development of a GCF project proposal for Zimbabwe in the Agriculture, Energy and Water sectors. This is a welcome development since the country has been challenged in undertaking such in initiatives, as it requires substantial technical expertise, baseline data, feasibility studies, time, human resources and finance. The meeting which comprised of the Ministries of Agriculture, Energy and Environment agreed to have a meeting after COP22 to review the current GCF project pipeline and priorities/ select the issue(s) to be submitted for project development, under the CTCN. The meeting to be held in Zimbabwe will define the scope of the project to be developed by CTCN. The Agriculture, Industry, Energy and Water Ministries and stakeholders will participate in the meeting.

7. Preventing the El Nino from becoming Disasters Side event

The delegation attended this side event organised by the UN Secretary General's climate change ambassadors to prevent El Niño events from becoming disasters. The meeting discussed the proposed implementation blueprint and emphasised on the need to have no regret options and investing in understanding the response of climate systems and downstream sectors to El Nino. It noted the need to move from blue-print to action and using such platforms as the Africa Risk Capacity which was created by the African Union to better to prepare nations to manage extremes. Zimbabwe expressed interest to be part of the early adopters. This will enable the country to join review and implement the blue-print as well as use it to build our resilience to El Nino. The organisers mentioned that Zimbabwe's request will be considered, initially through the New York and Geneva missions before the adoption of the blue-print.

8. ClimDev-Africa Phase 2 Pre-Launch Side event

The delegation attended the pre-launch event of the Climate for Development Second Phase Programme (2017 to 2022). It follows a successful first phase which was from 2012-2016. The Programme is set to support modernisation of climate information systems; analysis and packaging of climate information and support the development of climate policies and instruments. At the event, the African Development Bank (AfDB) reiterated its commitment to climate change resilience and its plan to increase climate finance to 5billion by 2020 in addition to its Feed-Africa programme that funds adaptation. Issues raised include the need to assist Africa to access climate finance, the need for data rescue and need for coordination of the several disjointed climate service initiatives. The need to strengthen African institutions to support the Paris Agreement especially adaptation and the INDCs as well as the need to look at implementation issues: technology transfer, climate finance and honouring commitments was also emphasized.

9. Enabling results-based payments for REDD+ in tropical forests: Lessons from reference setting Side Event

Many tropical countries have developed national REDD+ strategies and are seriously considering their potential to contributing to the mitigation of climate change in the context of NDCs under the Paris Agreement. For

results-based payments for REDD+, several tropical countries have already submitted forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels (FRELs/FRLs) and relevant technical assessments have been carried out in a speedy way. Making reliable and consistent FRELs/FRLs at national and sub-national levels is becoming a key challenge to be addressed.

The side event provided an opportunity to discuss issues of constructing FRELs/FRLs in selected tropical countries and enabling conditions for results-based payments for the effective implementation of REDD+ in tropical forests. A discussion with Mr Shuji Oki, Deputy Director General of the Forestry Agency of Japan and Dr Maria Jose Sanchez, Scientific Director, Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain explored possibilities of these two countries supporting Zimbabwe's REDD+ programme. The agreement was to have Zimbabwe engage the Japanese agency with a summarized report of Zimbabwe's REDD+ programme and its current status and challenges, and then include areas that may need further support.

10. Eco-village Design: Best Practices for Carbon Sequestration and Achieving the SDGs Side Event

The session was an opportunity for countries to share examples and success stories for scaling up and implementing best practices on carbon sequestration, water retention landscaping, biodiversity conservation, regeneration of degraded environments and climate friendly farming practices using different eco-village solutions from around the world. Discussions focused on ways that low tech and low cost alternatives are being successfully implemented by eco-villages in Africa and around the world, as well as exploring inter-linkages between climate change and other SDG focusses. Building on 20 successful years of global networking, sustainable development, and education, Global Eco-village Network (GEN) indicated its readiness to scale up its partnerships with governments, NGOs, and donors to implement policies and solutions at local, regional, and international levels. In a meeting with Kosha Joubert, Executive Director of GEN there was an agreement to further strengthen Zimbabwe's bilateral engagement with GEN given that the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate already has an MOU with GEN. The plan is to work closely with Linda Kabaira, Board member for GEN-Africa and

come up with a 2017 plan of action for Zimbabwe on eco-villages to be shared with GEN.

11. **Adaptation for Africa in Agriculture Initiative**

The Adaptation for Africa in Agriculture (AAA) to climate change initiative was launched in Marrakech. The initiative seeks to promote and foster the implementation of specific projects to improve soil management, agriculture, water control and climate risk management. This initiative aims for its projects to be awarded a substantial share of the climate funds, which developed countries have committed to provide to developing countries within the framework of the COP21 negotiations.

The adaptation of African agriculture is a response to climate change and food insecurity. The Government of Zimbabwe can take advantage of this initiative to mobilise resources for the implementation of NDCs particular with reference to building resilience in managing climate change disaster risk such as disasters and floods.

ANNEX I

MARRAKECH ACTION PROCLAMATION FOR OUR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, Heads of State, Government, and Delegations, gathered in Marrakech, on African soil, for the High-Level Segment of the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the 1st Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at the gracious invitation of His Majesty the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, issue this proclamation to signal a shift towards a new era of implementation and action on climate and sustainable development.

Our climate is warming at an alarming and unprecedented rate and we have an urgent duty to respond.

We welcome the Paris Agreement, adopted under the Convention, its rapid entry into force, with its ambitious goals, its inclusive nature and its reflection of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and we affirm our commitment to its full implementation.

Indeed, this year, we have seen extraordinary momentum on climate change worldwide, and in many multilateral fora. This momentum is irreversible – it is being driven not only by governments, but by science, business and global action of all types at all levels.

Our task now is to rapidly build on that momentum, together, moving forward purposefully to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to foster adaptation efforts, thereby benefiting and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

We call for the highest political commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority.

We call for strong solidarity with those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and underscore the need to support efforts

aimed to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability.

We call for all Parties to strengthen and support efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and to take stringent action to deal with climate change challenges in agriculture.

We call for urgently raising ambition and strengthening cooperation amongst ourselves to close the gap between current emissions trajectories and the pathway needed to meet the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

We call for an increase in the volume, flow and access to finance for climate projects, alongside improved capacity and technology, including from developed to developing countries.

We the Developed Country Parties reaffirm our USD \$100 billion mobilization goal.

We, unanimously, call for further climate action and support, well in advance of 2020, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, the least developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We who are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol encourage the ratification of the Doha Amendment.

We, collectively, call on all non-state actors to join us for immediate and ambitious action and mobilization, building on their important achievements, noting the many initiatives and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action itself, launched in Marrakech.

The transition in our economies required to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement provides a substantial positive opportunity for increased prosperity and sustainable development.

The Marrakech Conference marks an important inflection point in our commitment to bring together the whole international community to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time.

As we now turn towards implementation and action, we reiterate our resolve to inspire solidarity, hope and opportunity for current and future generations.