

2019 National Dialogue in Africa

Experiences with NDCs and accessing climate finance



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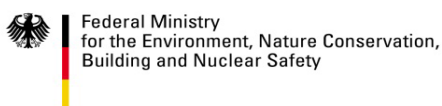
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INTRODUCTION

The Francophone and Anglophone Training workshops were held from 29 March to 3 April 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A “bridging day”, with participants from both Workshops, was held on 1 April 2019, with a morning session focused on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and an afternoon session focused on accessing climate finance.

Nigusu Lemma, Director General of the Department of Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission of Ethiopia officially opened the meeting. He congratulated the Francophone workshop participants for completing the training and welcomed the participants of the Anglophone Workshop. Describing the impacts of climate change and the necessity to adapt to it, he warned that time is against us. He thanked ecbi for organising the Workshops.

Anju Sharma, Oxford Climate Policy, thanked everybody on behalf of the ecbi and its global and regional partners. She explained the objectives of ecbi, saying the activities were targeted at levelling the playing field between negotiators at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and clarified the core purposes of the Workshops and the importance of the global negotiations. She also discussed the challenges

related to NDCs and to accessing climate finance for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



Participants of the Francophone and Anglophone Workshops meet and greet each other

Gebru Jember Endalew, former Chair of the LDC Group and ecbi alumni, welcomed and thanked all the participants and organisers of the workshops. Describing the important role of the ecbi in his professional development and success, he underlined the importance and challenges of negotiations and the need for action on the ground to see promising results. He underlined the need for capacity building programmes and workshops to enhance negotiating skills and addressed a number of issues related to climate changes.

During a “meet and greet” game that followed, the Francophone Workshop participants introduced themselves to the Anglophone Workshop participants and shared what s/he learned from the previous two days. Anglophone participants described what they expect to learn from the Workshop over the coming two days.

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

The session on NDCs followed. Emmanuel Seck, ENDA Energie, said NDCs are a key feature of the Paris Agreement through which all countries, not just developed countries, participate in reducing their emissions and adapting to climate change. He invited Mbaye Diagne from Senegal and Binyam Gebreyes from Ethiopia to discuss the NDCs of their countries.

Diagne said the intended NDC for Senegal was coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Development. Two expert groups were formed: on vulnerability and adaptation; and on mitigation. The adaptation group focused on key vulnerable sectors in the country, while the mitigation group focused on energy, agriculture,

forestry, and industry, using Senegal's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. He noted that the intended NDC was done in a hurry, before the Paris Agreement was adopted. Senegal has now announced its intention to revise it before 2020, now that there is a clearer idea of the Paris Agreement and of possible support for implementation.

A participant from Benin said that his country formed a committee for climate change which involved both the private and public sector to develop the NDC, and the country's National Action Plan (NAP) was based on its National Communication and NDC. The agriculture, water resources, and health sectors were identified as being particularly vulnerable, and an adaptation plan was developed for each of these sectors.

Gebreyes said Ethiopia's NDC is ambitious, and was based on political commitment, technical endorsement, and public endorsement – three factors that are critical for implementation.

Following the presentations, the participants were divided into groups to discuss the following questions:

- Does your country plan to re-submit its NDC before 2020?
- Does the NDC include adaptation?
- Do you have strategies in place to implement your NDCs?
- Are all the relevant sectors covered?
- Is the NDC aligned with main national policies and strategies?

Following group discussions, the first group composed of participants from Niger, Guinea, Djibouti, Togo, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania said all their countries have submitted NDCs, and they include adaptation. Strategies are in place to implement the NDCs. The key sectors for this group were agriculture, energy, and transport. Following ratification, they said, the NDC has become part of the national policy.

The second group, with participants from Malawi, Mozambique, Chad, and Guinea Bissau said the NDC was still being prepared for some of their countries, but they will include adaptation. Malawi has a NAP for climate change; Chad has a renewable energy programme; and Guinea Bissau has a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). In Mozambique the sectors of agriculture, water resources, forests, and fisheries are a priority. The sectors of agriculture, water resources, forests, fisheries, and infrastructure are critical in Malawi. In Chad, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and other sectors are given attention. In Guinea Bissau, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and coastal resources are key sectors. The plans are aligned with national policies, and in Mozambique, for instance, a national strategy for climate change was adopted. In Malawi also, there is national climate change management policy.

The third group, with participants from Ghana, Angola, Comoros, and Chad, said they have all submitted intended NDCs – except Angola, which has not yet ratified the Paris Agreement. The all include adaptation, and all the countries except Comoros have policies in place for the implementation of the NDCs.

The fourth group, with participants from Burundi, Senegal, and Rwanda, said Burundi is now revising its intended NDC. Senegal also hopes to submit its revised NDC by 2020. The NDCs are incorporated in national plans and strategies. For Senegal, the key sectors are agriculture, fisheries, livestock, energy, and industry. For Burundi, the key sectors are agriculture, transport, water resources, and energy.

The fifth group consisted participants from Ethiopia, where the NDC does include adaptation. A Climate Resilient Green Economic (CRGE) strategy has been adopted to implement it. All sectors are engaged in the process.

The sixth group included participants from Uganda, Liberia, and South Sudan. They said Liberia and South Sudan have not yet submitted their NDCs but intent to do so before 2020. Uganda submitted an NDC in October 2016. All three will include adaptation.

The seventh group with participants from Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome, and Niger said they have all submitted NDCs, with adaptation as an element, and these have been included in national policies, with all sectors involved.

The eighth group, with participants from Lesotho, Mali, Tanzania, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Benin, Mauritania, and Somalia, said five of them have submitted NDCs and the rest plan to do so before 2020. Adaptation is included, and there is a policy in place for the majority of the countries, with one country is updating its policy. Involving all the sectors is still work in progress, they said.

EXPERIENCES WITH ACCESSING CLIMATE FINANCE

The afternoon session was facilitated by Anju Sharma, Head of the Policy Analysis and Publications Unit, ecbi. Sharma described the key challenges that developing countries face in accessing climate finance, saying these are both national (for instance, the capacity to put together good proposals and meet the requirements of global climate funds for proposals, without the help of global consultants); and global (for instance, the design of the governance structures and procedures of global funds, which often include long-drawn and bureaucratic procedures, prioritising global accountability over national systems for channelling funds and accountability). She then invited two speakers to present their experiences on accessing global climate finance and describe both national and global challenges.

Endalew described Ethiopia's experience in accessing funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He said Ethiopia was second to Senegal in getting a National Implementing Entity (NIE) accredited to the GCF, and by 2011, the country was in a good position in terms of an appropriate institutional setup, having launched its CRGE strategy. The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was also actively engaged at the regional and global level. Ethiopia chose to move from a project-based approach to a sector-based/ landscape-based approach, he said. However, the prolonged approval procedures of the GCF meant that Ethiopia's project proposal of US\$50 million took three years for approval.

Describing national challenges in accessing climate finance, Endalew listed how the funds are channelled at the national level; integration into government plans; channelling the funds to the local level, where actual implementations occurs; and the lack of proper mainstreaming with national policies and plans. On the global challenges, Endalew identified the time taken for the GCF to process proposals, the bureaucracy involved in processing proposals, GCF Board procedures, and political influences on Board decisions.

Mamadou Honadia described the experience of Burkina Faso in accessing funds from the LDC Fund (LDCF). He described difficulties in ensuring national ownership of projects and activities while complying with the requirements of the LDCF; and the problems of dealing with global implementing entities. He mentioned two basic national level challenges: limited capacity of the National Implementing Entities (NIEs); and the capacity to manage resources.

Following the two presentations, participants formed groups for roundtable discussions on:

- Challenges faced while accessing finance from climate funds, and bilateral, multilateral agencies.
- Experiences with global/regional intermediaries.

- National mechanisms to track global finance.
- Experiences with private sector finance.
- Experiences with funding NDCs, NAPs, NAMAs, etc.

After the table discussion, groups reported back in the plenary and highlighted the following main issues:

- Limited experiences in accessing climate finance from the private sector
- Capacity building needs at the national level, to engage the private sector
- Lack of NIEs in some countries, such as Chad
- Lack of national capacity to formulate proposals
- Co-financing requirement, as in the case of LDC Fund
- Requirement for using global intermediaries
- Strong need to strengthen national technical expertise
- Multilateral banks have their own priorities (for instance, they mostly fund renewable energy projects in Mali)
- Bureaucratic procedures for accreditation of NIEs, in the case of the GCF
- Lack of proper coordination and communication at the national and global level

The bridging day ended with closing remarks from representatives from both the Francophone and Anglophone Africa groups, followed by an Ethiopian coffee ceremony.