

## Civil society workshop on the impact on “post Paris” climate policies on sustainable development

### October 11 & 12 2016, Dakar

### Summary Report



On October 11 & 12 2016, Carbon Market Watch and ENDA Energie organized a workshop in Dakar, Senegal on what the Paris Agreement means for climate policies on sustainable development. More than 25 participants from seven West African countries participated.

The workshop consisted of two sessions; (1) sustainable development in climate action and (2) West African climate action. The first session provided a general overview of the Paris Agreement outcomes as well as a panorama of other relevant policy processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Climate Fund. Special attention was given to carbon markets, presenting both lessons learned from the Clean Development Mechanism and future challenges regarding the definition of carbon markets related modalities and procedures in the Paris Agreement. The second session focused on West Africa, presenting some nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and analyzing the role of civil society therein.

As an outcome, 15 organisations from West African countries and others supporting the cause, endorsed a joint statement providing detailed recommendations on the sustainable development mechanism created by the article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Below is a summary of each of the individual presentations. The programme of the workshop can be found [here](#).



### **Secou Sarr and Aki Kachi: Welcome and Introduction**

Secou opened the event by recalling the importance of the role of civil society organizations (CSOs). He called on CSOs to follow and participate in all national dialogue and consultation processes related to climate policy making especially in order to give a voice to local communities and to make sure they have a positive impact on the ground.

Aki recalled that some climate mitigation projects have had negative impacts at the local level. The mission of Carbon Market Watch (CMW) is give a voice to impacted local communities in the international arena and to advocate for ambitious, robust, fair, rights based international rules. With this workshop, CMW hopes to increase the role of civil society in international climate negotiations.

### **Joseph Kogbe: State of play of the UNFCCC Negotiations**

Joseph Kogbe delivered an exhaustive panorama of the Paris Agreement outcomes, highlighting its balanced aspect but also the uncertainty about its long-term success. Although it has an ambitious objective, it provides little detail on implementation. Similarly, it is unclear how the \$ 100 billion annual target will be reached, proportions of public and private contributions, and balance between adaptation and mitigation. Finally, Joseph stressed that the modalities for reviewing national commitments do not include any sanctions and do not specify the level of ambition required.

In response to these uncertainties, Joseph outlined the Réseau Climat et Développement's recommendations and stressed the need to coordinate civil society to achieve this.

### **Aki Kachi: Recent developments relating to carbon markets and other climate finance tools**

Aki provided a recap of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol on flexible mechanisms. After illustrating countries the main sources of supply and demand, Aki provided more details on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Beyond the benefits promised by the CDM (technology transfers, mobilization of finance), Aki gave a critical analysis of the mechanism, highlighting its geographical imbalance or its lack of environmental integrity.

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) were then presented, along with their implementation and how they inform the implementation of nationally determined contributions.

He concluded his presentation indicating that based on current NDCs, there will be limited demand for international markets after 2020, except for the aviation and maritime transport sectors.

### **Sébastien Duyck: The Paris Agreement and respect for human rights**

Sébastien began by recalling the major steps in the field of human rights within the UNFCCC. The need to protect human rights in the fight against climate change was first recognized at the COP16 in Cancun, in 2010, this link was enshrined in the Paris Agreement in 2015. Its Preamble underlines that Parties must respect, promote and fulfill their Human Rights obligations when taking action on climate.

The challenge in the years to come, will be to operationalize these provisions. To do so, Sébastien highlighted the importance of integrating a rights-based approach in all UNFCCC discussions. This will

pave the way to an inclusive process to address the needs of the people most vulnerable to climate change.

In addition to the Preamble, the Paris Agreement contains other essential provisions to achieve this goal, including ambition, a just transition, public participation and free access to information. Other international processes, such as sustainable development goals (SDGs), are important to take into account.

### **Aki Kachi: Challenges regarding the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**

Moving from Kyoto to Paris, Aki provided guided a discussion on the Paris Agreement's carbon market provisions, in its Article 6.

The first section deals with "cooperative approaches" , which, according to the Agreement, must contribute to raising the level of ambition. The text also mentions the importance of sustainable development and environmental integrity. Aki indicated the importance of strict and robust rules to fulfill these objectives.

The second provision of the article creates a new "mechanism" that could represent a new and improved to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The major difference with the latter is that it will have to contribute to the overall mitigation of emissions and is no longer limited solely to developing countries. The mechanism shares the goal of contributing to sustainable development. Parties will have to agree in the coming years on the modalities and procedures for its operationalisation. It will be essential avoid repeating the mistakes of the CDM.

The last part of the Article deals with non-market-based approaches. Its scope is still to be defined.

### **Antoine Faye: The Green Climate Fund: what provisions for sustainable development, what accountability?**

Antoine started his presentation by indicating that the discussions on the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) took time and were only completed a few months before the Paris Agreement, when the first projects were approved. Much work remains to be done.

To avoid negative impacts from GCF projects, African civil society engagement is essential. At the national level, Designated National Authorities need to be monitored in their deliberations to approve each project.

Antoine then presented the modalities for direct access to GCF funding. The host country must have a national strategy to fight climate change and fulfill specific institutional requirements, such as having an accredited national implementing entity (ENE). To be accredited, ENE will need to implement high international fiduciary standards standards to prevent fraud as well as a system of environmental and social safeguards. As ENE accreditation may be a major challenge for least developed countries, they will need capacity building.

### **Pierre-Jean Brasier: Lessons Learned from the Clean Development Mechanism for the future Sustainable Development Mechanism**

After briefly introducing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Pierre-Jean identified the problems most commonly observed since its implementation, namely its non-additionality, the lack of sustainable development benefit and negative social and environmental impacts at the local level. Pierre-Jean then presented a few case studies illustrating the failures of the CDM, such as the Barro

Blanco hydroelectric project in Panama or the Sasan coal-fired power plant project in India. Pierre-Jean finally outlined how the lessons learned from the CDM should feed into the work on the modalities and procedures of the future Article 6 mechanism.

Key recommendations include the need to make the mechanism a climate finance tool, to establish a negative list, to prioritize the least developed countries, to implement safeguards and a complaint mechanism, and to establish clear criteria for contribution to sustainable development.

### **Libasse Ba: Sustainable Development Goals and Transfer of Climate Technologies - carbon and niche opportunities for technology issues**

After highlighting the challenges posed by poverty and the energy transition, Libasse presented the Center for Climate Technology (CTCN), which promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development in developing countries. The CTCN can also facilitate technology for the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Both processes are increasingly integrated.

The technical assistance materializes in the possibility to make a "request". Each request can be filed to the designated national authority and can help fulfilling an SDG. ENDA is pushing to make possible South / South technology transfers.

## **Day 2, 12 October 2016**

### **El Hadji Mbaye Diagne: Senegal and West African priorities on carbon markets**

Mbaye began by recalling the framework laid down by the Paris Agreement. After clarifying that SBSTA was in charge of defining the modalities and procedures for implementing Article 6, Mbaye discussed the challenges ahead in detail.

Concerning cooperative approaches (carbon markets), the Africa group is of the opinion that their implementation must not be conditioned to the nature of the NDCs. They must also lead to an increase in ambition and contain strict rules on double counting and environmental integrity. On sustainable development, the Africa group believes that evaluation and monitoring criteria should be made available but that any decision is a national prerogative.

On the Article 6 Mechanism, Mbaye stressed the importance of building on the key institutions established by the CDM and on the improvements implemented by the Executive Board in specific areas such as programs of activity, baselines or automatic additionality. It will be important to clearly define the relation between the mechanism and NDCs and how it will contribute to global emissions mitigation.

### **Boubakar Fall: NDCs monitoring under UNFCCC and presentation of the Senegalese NDC**

The first part of Boubakar's presentation was devoted to the Paris Agreement provisions on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which encompass measures that countries intend to implement to fight against and adapt to climate change. At the UNFCCC level, upcoming challenges are about progress monitoring and the models and methodologies used to achieve it.

Boubakar then gave a panorama of current and future impacts of climate change on Senegal, which will greatly affect coastal ecosystems and the agriculture and fisheries sectors. He presented in detail the Senegalese NDC and the socio-economic benefits that it is supposed to bring. The presentation ended with questions on NDC implementation and the role of civil society organizations therein.

## **K Samuel Kientore: Burkina Faso's NDC**

Samuel detailed the main provisions Burkina Faso's NDC. He indicated that the national civil society organisations (CSOs) was not initially properly consulted. Following complaints, the government eventually organized three workshops but did not involve CSOs in the decision making.

### **Summary of the subsequent discussion**

The reactions of the participants to the presentations led to a lively discussion. They centered on four key issues:

- The lack of emphasis on adaptation, compared to mitigation: Despite the fact that Parties agreed that adaptation was as equally important as mitigation, participants bemoaned the lack of funding available to adapt to climate change.
- The complexity of accessing climate finance: Both the difficulty of having an entity accredited under the GCF and the geographical imbalance of CDM projects show how complicated it is for least developed countries to access to climate finance. Participants stressed the importance of capacity building to address the issue.
- The lack of transparency of the designated national authorities: consideration should be given to determining which national institution is best equipped to function as a contact point for international climate institutions and to approve and monitor projects backed by international climate finance. Too often, participants noted that only one individual plays these roles and retains information. Instead, these processes should be institutionalized and made inclusive.
- The need to organize civil society at national level: participants criticized the lack of inclusion of civil society organizations in national decision-making processes. CSOs face challenges such as a lack of structure, representativeness, or expertise. They concluded that there is an urgent need for these actors to specialize on specific topics and strengthen their skills.

At the end of the workshop, participating organizations agreed on the final statement below.

### **Statement of Dakar: recommendations to West African negotiators for COP22**

We, representatives of West African civil society organizations, Carbon Market Watch, academics, local authorities and citizens gathered in Dakar, Senegal, on October 11-12, to discuss the Paris Agreement impact on sustainable development.

- Stressing the importance of adaptation to climate change for the already heavily impacted African countries. As it is too often made a lower priority, especially in the framework of the Green Climate Fund, we reiterate that adaptation is as crucial as mitigation.
- Welcoming the recognition of non-state actors in the Paris Agreement and their role in its implementation through NDCs.
- Considering the need to link the sustainable development agenda with the climate agenda.
- Noting the collective awareness of the limitations of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Africa and the establishment of a new sustainable development mechanism (SDM) and cooperative approaches (Article 6).

Past experiences with the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) have demonstrated a number of flaws. CDM projects were concentrated in emerging countries, such as China and India, and failed to benefit less developed countries, particularly because of its complexity. Similarly, the CDM failed to

meet its dual objectives of reducing emissions and contributing to sustainable development. The weakness of its modalities and procedures has led to negative impacts on both environmental integrity (increase in global emissions due to non-additional projects) and social impacts (affecting communities living in the vicinity of projects) in many projects.

**Recommend on the mechanism created by Article 6.4:**

The SDM must take into account the lessons learned from the CDM by including in its modalities and procedures the following elements:

- 1 – The reinforcement of Designated National Authorities functions and operation so that they act as a facilitator between State and non-State actors and in order to ensure communication and reporting mainly on sustainable development impacts
- 2 – An increased and effective participation of non-state actors, in particular local and regional authorities and NGOs, and the strengthening of their capacity for more ownership
- 3 – Use of the SDM as a financing tool. This would allow to shift from a market based and offsetting approach to a result-based climate finance approach. Credits from emission reductions would be canceled and the funding provided would be counted towards international climate finance commitments.
- 4 – Prioritized access to the SDM for countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries and Small Island Countries
- 5 - Appropriate sustainability criteria for the monitoring of projects financed by the SDM.
- 6 - Respect of Human Rights, as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. The SDM must have a system of institutional safeguards that will determine the project eligibility as well as a grievance mechanism that will deal with stakeholders’ claims.

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Agreed in Dakar on 12 October 2016

