



**REPORT OF THE**

**PRE-AMCEN AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP**

**AND**

**AFRICAN REGIONAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE  
MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR UNEP'S 12<sup>th</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL / GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM**

**HOTEL MASSALLEY, Bamako, Mali**

**9 - 11 September 2011**



Some of the participants pose for a photo with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation Abdoulaye Berthe (third right) after the opening of the workshop

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our invaluable partners, specifically the APRODEV-affiliated<sup>1</sup> Agencies Christian Aid, Diakonia and Finnish Church Aid (FCA), as well as Oxfam GB provided funding which enabled us to hold this important workshop. We wish to express our gratitude to all and assure them of our continued cooperation.

The UNEP/Regional Office for Africa found it strategic to combine the civil society workshop with preparatory meeting for thirteenth Global Major Group and Stakeholders Forum. This was a major boost for us and we sincerely thank the staff for their continued support and partnership with the civil society in Africa.

And to those hundreds of member organizations and networks that have remained committed to the vision and mission of PACJA, and those who sent their representatives to the workshop, we wish to reiterate our promise to remain loyal to duty, and will continue to clasp our hands with them in all the things that are essential for the mutual progress of all.

PACJA has received overwhelming support from a wide array of allies, including governments African Group, Government of the Republic of Mali and African Group), inter-government agencies and international partners, who in one way or the other have added value to our work. The challenge of climate change cannot be defeated by a single individual, nor can it be defeated by a country or region. We need global collaboration, and that is why we sincerely value cooperation with all and sundry.

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<sup>1</sup> The APRODEV - Association of World Council of Churches related Development organisations in Europe – brings together 17 faith-based Development Agencies, and work with PACJA in broader areas of climate change, justice and sustainable development

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Pre-AMCEN African Civil society workshop, which also doubled up as the African regional preparatory meeting for UNEP Major Groups, was held on 9 – 11 September 2011, at Hotel Maselley, Bamako and brought together around 50 civil society participants from key regions and diverse backgrounds in Africa, including small farmers, trade unions, youth, women, indigenous peoples and faith-based networks, etc.

It was held strategically ahead of the AMCEN extra-ordinary meeting and was organised by PACJA in collaboration with UN Regional Office for Africa among other partners to discuss strategies aimed at strengthening civil society involvement in the international climate change dialogue processes and Rio+20 processes.

While the first two days were dedicated to discussions centering on COP17, day three was dedicated to regional major groups and stakeholders consultations in preparation for UNEP's 12th special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in February 2012. Consequently, the workshop was divided into two parts :

## **II. Part one which took the first two days looked into the details of UNFCCC-COP17, and had the following key objectives:**

- To interrogate the African performance in the international climate change dialogue processes, and explore areas of improvement ahead of UNFCCC-COP17.
- To strategise on how the civil society could influence draft African position to that was endorsed by AMCEN, and which took place immediately after the workshop.
- To explore and deliberate on converging areas of lobbying, advocacy and mobilisation at international level among African civil society and government negotiators
- To identify and define the action agenda for different stakeholders – policy makers (parliamentarians), civil society, government negotiators, regional economic blocks and leaders to support global and national actions to enable communities adequately respond to climate change in ways that guarantee their livelihoods, in the period 2009 and after.
- To (possibly) finalise the African people's protocol on climate justice
- To validate policy briefs developed as lobby papers for PACJA for COP17 and beyond

## **II. Part two dealt with the African regional preparatory process and had the following objectives :**

- To provide a platform for exchange and consultation among civil society on key environmental issues, in preparation for UNEP's 12th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum to be held from 20-22 February 2012

- To facilitate Major Groups' contribution to the GCSS.XII/GMEF and Rio+20 process.
- To analyse opportunities and strategic options to contribute to a successful Rio+20 process. This was done in view of the ambition that Rio+20 seeks to establish a new international cooperation order based on a more appropriate governance framework for sustainable development, and seeks to promote a transition to a green economy.
- To elect African representatives to the UNEP Global Major Groups

## **1.0 The opening ceremony, September 9, 2011**



**From left : Mrs. Ngenda (UNEP-ROA), Mrs. Damba (AFAD), Abdoulaye Berthe (Secretary general of the Ministry of Environment & Sanitation, Mali ), Mithika Mwenda (PACJA) and Rev. Talbert Jallah (FECCIWA) during the opening ceremony**

The facilitator, Rev. Dr. Talbert Jallah of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECIWA) called the workshop to order and thanked the Guest of Honour, the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation Mr. Abdoulaye Berthe, who was representing AMCEN President and Deputy Prime Minister of Mali, HE Prof. Tiemoko Sangare. After self-introduction by participants, the facilitator introduced the speakers of the session, who included the President of AFAD Mrs. Maiga Damba, PACJA Coordinator Mithika Mwenda, UNEP-ROA programme Officer in charge of Partnership Gertrude Ngenda and Mr. Abdoulaye Berthe. He invited them to deliver their remarks.

### **1.1 Remarks by President of the host NGO - Association for Training and Support to Development (AFAD)**

As the local organizer of the workshop, the AFAD President's role was to welcome the participants where she thanked the trust they had with her organization. She particularly thanked PACJA for the confidence it had renewed within AFAD through the reorganization of the forum. She recalled the context of the organization of the workshop in 2011 which was part of the continuation of the 2010 workshop whose objectives were the similar namely to allow African Civil Society to strengthen their understanding of climate change dialogue process in order to contribute to adopt a common position in the fight against climate change at the upcoming COP17 in Durban and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) that will be held in 2012 in Rio (Brazil).

### **1.2 Remarks by PACJA Coordinator**

After thanking the participants for their availability and the NGO AFAD for the good organization of the workshop, recalled many initiatives carried out by PACJA, including the previous Bamako workshop 2010 promoting climate justice. He attribute the successes to unity and dedication among PACJA members, but lamented that despite all efforts, industrialized countries have failed to succumb to pressure to accept a climate change deal that is responsive to African countries and communities. He outlined PACJA work towards Durban and beyond, drawing their attention to the "Durban strategy" developed in South Africa in March 2011.

### **1.3 Remarks by the Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa**

The Director for UNEP Regional Office for Africa was represented by the Programme of in charge of Partnerships, Mrs. Getrude Ngenda, who welcomed all participants and thanked the local organizing committee for the successful organization of the workshop. She then reassured the audience of the commitment of UNEP to support the inclusion of the results of the workshop in the Bamako AMCEN and the UNEP's 12th Special Session of Governing Council / Global Ministerial Forum February 2012.

She reiterated UNEP's commitment to partnering with civil society, along other stakeholders, in driving environmental and climate change issues in sustainable development in Africa.

### **1.4 Keynote address from the office of Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry for Environment and Sanitation and AMCEN President**

In his remarks, the Secretary General of Ministry of Environment and Sanitation Mr. Abbbdoulaye Berthe, who represented Deputy Prime Minister and AMCEN President Prof. Tiemoko Sangare thanked all the participants and welcomed them in Mali. He expressed his satisfaction and delight on the efforts of PACJA in the context of environmental protection and the fight against climate change and reassured the participants that the civil society views would be considered by AMCEN when drawing the common African position. After reiterating the AMCEN's President commitment to foster cordial working relationship between governments in Africa and civil society, he declared open the proceedings of the workshop and wished success to all.

## 2.0 Presentations

### 2.1 Context of COP17: the dynamics in international climate change dialogue processes, latest post-Cancun developments & possible scenarios in Durban and the main elements of the preliminary draft of the African position.

This presentation was made by Dr. Habtemariam Abate from Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change, who is also the a PACJA representative in Eastern and Horn of Africa. In his presentation, he focused on major negotiations made since the Cancun conference on the dynamics of climate change. He noted that the negotiations made through international meetings including those of Bangkok and Bonn addressed the substantive issues of climate change including reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to the minimum 1.5%, the issues of adaptation or mitigation of the effects of climate change, the possibilities and modalities of funding for adaptation measures to climate change (rapid funding in the medium and long term), etc.



After lengthy discussions on the “inside” and “outside” of the various international meetings, he came to the conclusion that for the moment the negotiations have failed to link word into action. In other words the major countries of the North not only drag the step in implementing the Kyoto Protocol but also are doing everything to kill it in Durban, South Africa.

The refusal by developed countries to reduce their percentage of greenhouse gas emissions, the large percentage given to the funding of the

effects of mitigation of climate change at the expense of adaptation, septic pledges on funding and slowness in the release of allocated funds, the availability to underdeveloped countries of the funds as loans instead of grants, are all indicators that justify their bad faith in the fight against the effects of climate change.

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