

Regional Workshop on Climate Change Mitigation and Green Economic Development in the SACU Region

Cape Town, 1-2 March 2011



British High Commission Pretoria



International Institute for Environment and Development

Members of Parliament from the SACU Region call for a greater involvement in Parliaments in the International Negotiations on Climate Change, and propose Parliaments become a driving force in promoting Green Economic Development



The seminar for the five Parliaments of the SACU region took place on 1-2 March 2011 in Cape Town. The seminar was attended by over 60 participants, including Members of Parliament (MPs) from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and the United Kingdom (UK). Participants also included academics, business representatives, parliamentary researchers, and representatives of international organisations.

During the seminar, scientists explained the facts about Climate Change both globally and within the context of Southern Africa, and negotiators provided updates to participants on the current status of international negotiations within the UNFCCC framework, meanwhile identified areas for parliamentary actions. Experts on renewable energy and business representatives outlined the various options for South Africa and the region in terms of green economic development, and MPs from the UK shared their experiences in the field of Climate Change Mitigation. They explained that ambitious targets may go hand in hand with economic development, but political will at the national level, and commitment at the international level, are major factors to meet agreements on a socially just global system.

In the debate that followed, MPs and the experts exchanged crucial information on specific cases and issues. They agreed on the need for a closer cooperation between experts and parliaments and between parliaments of the region and SADC. •

Results

During the discussions in the plenary and working group sessions, participants proposed a range of action points on how Parliament can promote Climate Change Mitigation and Green Economic Development, and how it can play a more prominent role in international Climate Change negotiations.

Promote Climate Change Mitigation and Green Economic Development

- Develop regulatory incentives to promote low carbon development
- Continue dialogue on Climate Change and Green Economic Development between MPs from the SADC region
- Strengthen cooperation with Parliaments of European countries that have Climate Change and Green Economic Development high on their agendas
- Establish effective cooperation on Climate Change between national parliaments and decentralised governing bodies in the SADC region
- Promote regular cooperation and exchange of information between Parliaments, academics and local expertise
- Collect information on practical examples of and effective response to Climate Change by organising regular field visits
- Interact with constituents on the effects of Climate Change and possible response options on a local level

Parliament to play a more prominent role in the international Climate Change negotiations

- Encourage regional parliamentary cooperation in preparation for COP17 in Durban
- Coordinate actions and involvement of all major stakeholders in COP17 (national South African)
- Engage with companies and communities on COP17 and share ideas on their role •

Opening Session

The opening session was chaired by **Hon. Barry Gardiner, MP from the UK**. Hon. Gardiner started out by stating that today almost 50% of global emissions come from the developed world, which represents just 20% of the global population, which is

hardly the basis for a just and sustainable international settlement.

Hon. Gardiner further stated, "As we approach COP17 in Durban, we need to be clear about why the Kyoto accord is not sufficient and what is required to take the negotiations on a trajectory that may be able to deliver a legally binding agreement. The total emissions reductions pledged so far under the accord by the US, Japan, Europe and the major developing economies fail to match the scientific calculations on targets for stopping dangerous climate change. The accord makes no enforceable provision for funding of capacity building in developing countries. It creates no binding obligation on developed countries to finance adaptation, or to effect technology transfer. And it



Delegates at Regional Seminar

Fact Finding Mission



Kuyasa CDM Project

Prior to the Regional Seminar on Climate Change Mitigation, the participants of the seminar attended a field visit to see local examples of the green economy at work. The mission to Kuyasa displayed considerable social benefits through retrofitting RDP houses with solar water heater, insulated ceilings and energy efficient lights. For many of the residents in Kuyasa, this will be the first time they have received hot water, showing how pivotal green energy can transform a country's carbon profile as well as improve the quality of life of the constituencies.

creates no structure to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation." He further argued that a post-2012 framework to tackle climate change will only be effective if it delivers climate stability, secures the participation of all countries and is considered fair. Currently, global Climate Change negotiations are taking place under two tracks: the Kyoto-track, whereby the parties are considering further targets beyond 2012, and the UNFCCC-track, involving all parties. According to Gardiner, an effective and acceptable deal starts with the following:

- An agreement to keep the average global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, with a commitment to keep this target under review according to the latest science and preparing for potential greater warming.
- A decision under the Kyoto track to a second commitment period (2013-2017) for developed countries to include quantified economy-wide emissions reduction targets and the associated commitments on finance and technology
- A new parallel Treaty under the 'Convention Track' should include 'comparable commitments' for the US (without them having to join the Kyoto Protocol) such as an economy-wide emissions reduction target and a commitment to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries for both mitigation and adaptation
- For developing countries, Gardiner argued, there is a need for a common system for recording actions, such as through carbon or energy intensity targets, renewable targets, efficiency targets, sustainable forestry targets or other sectoral policies, and with a commitment to increased transparency through more frequent National Communications under the UNFCCC.

Hon. Gardiner closed by stating that the

Proplas Plastic Recycling Factory

The second field visit was to the Proplas plastic recycling factory, which demonstrated the economic opportunities in green technology. It was evident that profit can be made by investing in responsible green energy. This example illustrated how legislation and municipal waste management acts could encourage waste separation at the source – a key driver for greater recycling opportunities.



role that parliaments and MPs can play in monitoring, reporting and the verifying national commitments and actions is of fundamental importance in bringing this into being. It is the responsibility of legislators to press governments to sign up to international treaties, and to ensure through the democratic processes that they deliver. •

Lord Chidgey, Member of the UK House of Lords and AWEPA Governing Council Member, outlined how AWEPA is assisting parliaments of the SACU region in the development of coherent legislation and policies that adequately address Climate



Change challenges. In the context of Africa, DFID is developing a third aid package for Climate Change issues to go with Multilateral and Bilateral Aid.

According to Lord Chidgey, the UK, like other industrialised countries, has recognised that mitigation, through green economic development, offers opportunities for economic development. "We should recognise that, while climate change is undoubtedly a massive threat to poor countries, it also presents real opportunities." •

Hon. De Lange, Member of South African and Chair of Committee on Water and Environmental Affairs, discussed the critical situation of Climate Change in South Africa and the need to campaign for a reduction of CO₂ emissions. He illustrated how South Africa is affected by several effects of Climate Change, such as rising temperatures,

increasing frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, and a loss of biodiversity. With this overwhelming scientific evidence, Hon. De Lange stated, the South African Government has recognised that "Climate Change is intensifying and that human activity is contributing to the problem."

Referring to the latest scientific data, Hon. De Lange stated that South Africa has a high emissions profile: it is the 13th major GHG emitter globally and ranks 10th in terms of per capita emissions. South Africa's 9.25 tons per capita emission exceeds that of China, which is about 5 tons. South Africa is Africa's greatest emitter of GHGs, as it depends mainly on coal as a source of energy.

Hon. De Lange explained that 2011 is an important year for South Africa's Climate Change response as it will finalise a White Paper on Climate Change and host the COP 17. The department of Environmental Affairs was designated by the Cabinet for the coordination and the implementation of South Africa's commitments to the UNFCCC. According to Hon. De Lange, South Africa needs to urgently elaborate key issues such as the sustainable energy mix, an energy planning process, pricing for carbon and prioritisation and financing of interventions.

He concluded by stating that the South African Parliament supports the common African position on international climate change negotiations, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. "We will aim for more ambitious, quantified and legally-binding emissions reduction commitments for developed countries, while allowing developing countries to pursue poverty eradication and sustainable development goals". •

Mr. Simon Atkinson, Deputy Head of Mission, British Consulate General Cape Town presented the new UK Government's plan of a green economy.

"Prime Minister David Cameron has said he wants the coalition administration to be 'the greenest government ever' and has identified the green economy, climate change and energy security as key priority areas. He has also said that he will commit £1.5 billion in assistance between now and 2012 to help other countries combat the negative effects of climate change and to reduce their emissions."

According to Mr. Atkinson, the aim of the UK is to become a low carbon economy, with a 34% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. In order to meet these ambitious targets he explained the UK's policy which is comprised of a renewable energy strategy, a low carbon transition strategy, funding for research and development, financial mechanisms and incentives. Atkinson further explained, "since 2002 the UK has already tripled the amount of electricity it gets from renewable sources and is a leader in key sectors such as offshore wind power; moreover, the UK has also cut emissions by a quarter compared to 1990." •

Session 1:

Regional and Global Climate Change Challenges and Progress through the UNFCCC •

In the first session presenters and participants assessed how well the international process has achieved agreement on emissions reduction. The session looked at how Climate Science informs us about the probable impact and effects in Southern Africa and what emission reductions and agreements are required to achieve a more stable climate system. •

Dr. Peter Johnston from the Climate Systems Analysis Group, University of Cape Town, presented the scientific facts on Climate Change, starting at the global level. He then proceeded to focus on Southern Africa and more specifically, South Africa. The presentation convincingly displayed the reality of climate change.



Dr. Johnston explained how GHG emissions from human activities have contributed to increased temperatures over the last 100 years, with the past twelve years being the warmest. He explained that higher temperatures worldwide will have an impact on ecosystems and will increase the occurrence of extreme weather conditions. These changes and conditions will have an effect on food production, water availability, biodiversity and land degradation, which will eventually lead to socio-economic impoverishment in the Southern African region.

Agriculture contributes only 3% to South Africa's GDP, but downstream value adds 20% to GDP and occupies 30% of population. Impact on agriculture from climate change will be increased evaporation, increased drought, sun burnt plants, decreased grain yields, intense rainfall, and an increase in new and existing pests.

Dr. Johnston continued by exploring the various response options for the SACU regions. He explained that mitigation actions are necessary but are politically and socially complicated. In a detailed chart, the participants could see in which areas mitigation actions would yield the highest results. Dr. Johnston further elaborated that adaptation options are easier to reach consensus on, but proper planning and coordination is a must.

Dr. Johnston concluded by stating that the most important measures to curb human contributions to Climate Change are the introduction of efficiency limits in vehicles, carbon tax, energy efficiency measures and

public transport initiatives. •

Dr. Achala Chandani Abeysinghe, IIED discussed developments of COP 16 in Cancun.

Dr. Chandani stated that the framework agreement of Cancun offers a glimmer of hope towards striking an inclusive global climate change agreement. She had the following to say about the Cancun Framework Agreement:



- Under mitigation it establishes a process of review of the adequacy of the long-term goal of bringing the 2° target down to 1.5°
- Under adaptation it establishes a new climate adaptation framework and associated adaptation committee to focus on priorities such as mitigation, risk and disaster management, and strengthening of institutions
- It establishes a Green Climate Fund managed by a board representing developed and developing countries equally, a Technical Executive Committee and a Climate Technical Centre and Network

Dr. Chandani stated that Durban has two main challenges: to achieve an equitable distribution of atmospheric resources between developed and developing countries (on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities), and the delivery on promises of finance.

“The continuation of a flexible mechanism is needed to continue the discussion as is the development of new technologies to support mitigation and adaptation. Essentially, the industrialised countries must reduce emissions and the developing countries must be part of the exercise.” Dr. Chandani emphasised the crucial role of MPs is to

- Acquire a special forum for the parliamentarians at the COP17
- Promote South-South cooperation
- Be involved in country submissions
- Follow inter-sessional meetings (starting from Bangkok)
- Frequent updates and communications

with the negotiating team and other stakeholder groups

In her vision, the most likely scenario for COP17 in Durban will be the adoption of a two track approach leading to two agreements or one agreement merging the two tracks, “we need to find a way to keep the good elements of Kyoto on board”. •

Session 2:

Climate Change Mitigation Policies in the SADC Region and Climate Change Response Options for SACU Countries. •

Mr. Paul Msoma of the SADC-PF stated that regional coordination and strong parliaments lie at the heart of region's long-term development vision, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change challenges.

Mr. Msoma informed the audience that the SADC-PF is increasing its capacity to respond to Climate Change challenges. “SADC-PF envisions a climate change platform which will enhance information sharing and facilitate engagement among SADC parliamentarians. This platform will also facilitate a climate change resource centre at the SADC-PF that would disseminate information on climate change to Parliaments”. In order to promote the role of MPs in Climate Change issues, Mr. Msoma outlined that the SADC-PF promotes that climate change negotiators consult and include parliamentarians on climate change issues including actual negotiations; furthermore, it promotes the participation of parliamentarians in regional and international meetings on climate change. Finally, SADC-PF aims to increase the capacity of parliamentarians through interacting with the Executive on climate change issues. SADC-PF also promotes parliamentarians to advance the agenda of climate at a national level and play a significant role in reviewing existing legislation as well as exercise oversight of governmental policy, regulations & budgets. “Through legislation, scrutiny, oversight and representation, Parliamentarians can strengthen the interaction between parliaments and civil society, as well as establish a culture of accessibility”. •

Acronyms

AWG	Ad Hoc Working Group
BAU	Business as Usual
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CSP	Concentrated Solar Power
COP17	Conference of Parties - Climate Change Conference in Durban
DFID	Department for International Development - UK
GHG(s)	Greenhouse Gas(es)
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
LAP	Long-Term Action Plan
LCA	Long-Term Cooperative Action
LTMS	Long-Term Climate Mitigation Scenario
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Plan
REDD	Reduction in Emissions through Deforestation and Development
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC-PF	Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum
SASOL	SASOL (South African Coal and Oil Company)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



Prince Magudyulela Dlamini of Swaziland with Hon. Barry Gardiner, Member of Parliament, UK

Mr. Thapelo Letete, Energy Research Centre UCT, presented Climate Change Response options for South Africa and the region, focusing on long-term mitigation. Letete began by stating that there is no more space for coal power if South Africa is to meet emission reduction targets, furthermore, existing and planned coal plants will emit even higher levels of GHGs. He argued that there is a need to bring in renewable energy as early as possible, however, there is an issue with costs and barriers to technology transfer. Based on the conclusions of the Long-Term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) adopted by South Africa, Mr. Letete introduced a few mitigation strategies:

- 1. Energy Efficiency:** Wind energy has medium investment cost, a short-term and longer mitigation impact, creates jobs, uses little water and is easy to implement. Solar energy has a high investment cost, a large impact in the future, creates jobs, boosts local industrial development and is easy to implement, with specific technological challenges. Industrial energy efficiency requires the least government financing, has large immediate and long-term impacts, provides job security but has a weak record of success due to weak institutions for management.
- 2. Transport:** Does not require a large government subsidy, has a long-term benefit for the environment, but is complex to enforce.
- 3. Carbon Capture and Storage:** Scientifically uncertain and poses huge challenges.

Mr. Letete concluded by stating that Parliament's contribution could be to enhance government accountability through legislative measures and ensure that climate change response is embedded in each department/municipality's annual plan; moreover, Parliament could use its oversight role to enforce environmental and climate change audits, as well as enhance public sector leadership by being exemplary, raise awareness & disseminate education. •

Session 3:

Renewable Energy and Green Economic Development: the basics and the potential for the Region •

Mr. Goede from SASOL presented the green energy development potential for South Africa and showed how SASOL is investing in green energy technology and its application. He started out by stating the need to balance the production of greener energy while reducing the demand. This is most effectively done through energy efficiency, renewable

energy, nuclear energy, carbon capture and storage. He argued that on the short-term South Africa should promote wind power, solar water heaters, waste combustions and biomass. With price levels for Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology continuingly going down, it could be a very attractive energy source in the future, taking into account the favourable climate in Southern Africa. Illustrating this, Mr. Goede mentioned that South Africa has the theoretical potential to produce ten times Eskom's current capacity from CSP.

He concluded that regulatory certainty is a prerequisite to attract investments in renewable energy and remaining within



Site Visit to a Solar Water Heater Project

certain targets requires accurate monitoring and reporting. •

Ms. Tasneem Essop Head of UNFCCC Strategy and Advocacy for the WWF Global Climate Energy Initiative started her presentation by stating that a legally binding global agreement is the only means to deal with the scale of the problem. A legally binding agreement should outline an equitable sharing of effort, binding of all parties and protection of the vulnerable. Ms. Essop stated that the Kyoto Protocol only applied to some developed countries and ends in 2012, whereas the Bali Action Plan sets up a Long-term Co-operative Action (LCA) track covering the actions in mitigation, adaptation, finance, and technology of countries.

Ms. Essop stated the COP16 had a positive atmosphere but weak agreements. She concluded that at the COP 17, Africa will need to sort out a strategy and process that will be truly inclusive and transparent and gives recognition to the role of NGOs. She concluded by stating South Africa's domestic policies and actions are critical for being a credible host of COP17 and, massive public awareness and engagement should be launched. •



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Conclusions

Hon. Barry Gardiner, Member of the UK Parliament, wrapped up the seminar's discussion by stating, "It is important throughout this debate to remember the science of poverty." He explained that environmental degradation and poverty are closely related since 50% of the GDP of the world's poor derive their income directly from the environment and its services. He further stated that a fundamental goal should be to achieve an equitable distribution of atmospheric resources and that the focus should change from emissions reductions to reducing personal emissions and that every person must produce less than 2 tons of carbon per year.

Hon. Gardiner concluded by stating that "it is important to implement policies that result in de-carbonisation through energy efficiency, replacing fossil fuels with new technologies, and getting the financing and technology transfer right." •

About AWEPA

AWEPA is an international Parliamentary association which works in cooperation with African Parliaments to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Africa, to keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European Parliamentary dialogue. AWEPA has served as a unique tool for complex democratisation operations through: a membership skills base of more than 1500 European parliamentarians who devote their wide-ranging expertise to peer learning with African colleagues; long-term partnerships with African parliamentarians, which ensures local ownership and accountability; and an infrastructure of political and parliamentary entry points, which spans 9 African and 2 European offices as well as 25 parliaments in Africa and 28 in Europe, including the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament. •

Colophon

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