

# “PROMOTE LOCAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS TO END POVERTY”



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## The importance of a poverty reduction focus in the NDCs, transparency framework and global stocktake

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### KEY MESSAGES

***In the ongoing negotiations on the development of the “Paris Rule book”, it is important that the “rules” are set in order for the resulting NDCs and climate actions to mitigate climate change, build climate resilience, enhance sustainable development and reduce poverty in developing countries. This will increase popular support for the climate actions, and thereby the likelihood of their success. Clear decisions for this are needed in the final negotiations of the Paris Rulebook. Therefore, we suggest that:***

- i. Sustainable development and poverty reduction are included as features or context of the NDCs, in the guidelines (APA agenda item 3a) as well as within the transparency framework (APA agenda item 5) as non-GHG benefits.
- ii. Civil society involvement and inclusion of local environmental aspects are important both in the development of NDCs and when implementing their actions. This should be reflected in the guidelines under APA agenda item 3a (features of NDCs) and under agenda item 3b (information in NDCs)
- iii. Given NDCs are nationally determined; it is of importance that they communicate how the individual country is integrating climate change actions in their national development priorities. This should be included in the guidelines for information in the NDCs (APA under agenda item 3b) as well as within the transparency framework under non-GHG benefits (APA agenda item 5)
- iv. Accounting rules for Parties’ Nationally Determined Contributions should be regularly updated with latest scientific findings, including information from IPCC, allowing best available information of greenhouse gas effects and substances to be included. Therefore allowing for reduction of black carbon emissions from improved cooking with biomass. This should be included under guidance for NDCs under APA agenda 3b and 3c as well as under the transparency framework (APA agenda item 5)
- v. Under the heading “National inventory report on anthropogenic emissions by sources...” emissions from local and dispersed sources, including emissions of black carbon particles should be included

- vi. Non-party stakeholders should be involved in the global stocktake, which should be specified in the guidance for global stocktake (APA agenda item 6)
- vii. There should be clear guidance on the balanced flow of climate finance towards adaptation and mitigation actions (SBI 47 Agenda item 15)
- viii. It is important that the Paris Agreement becomes operational as soon as possible, and therefore the Paris Rulebook must be ready not later than at COP24. That will require that negotiations are substantially advanced during on all issues during COP23.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

***In order to realise a strong implementation system that is effective in achieving the Paris Agreement goals and goal 13 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, at least 2 key issues need full attention at COP23 namely:***

- Setting the pace towards 2018, when there will be an initial opportunity to take stock of progress towards implementation of the Paris Agreement. This includes finalising of the Paris Rulebook
- Advancing the role of Non-Party Actors in global climate action across the globe, especially in the global South in order to build resilience amongst vulnerable communities and to ensure popular support for implementation of the Paris Agreement.

It is understandable that the submission of the INDCs prior to COP 21 in Paris was done hurriedly. Therefore, State Parties did not effectively engage the civil society in their development. However, going forward, this engagement is very significant.

In addition, relating NDCs with poverty reduction and including local mitigation solutions that reduce poverty and support sustainable development is key for the success of implementation and enhancing popular support of climate actions. This incorporation of local solutions can be done with assistance from civil society.

## THE EAST AFRICAN SCENARIO

In Uganda for instance, the NDC implementation road map and development of the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process that are underway, could ably benefit from CSO and wider stakeholder viewpoints. Currently, stakeholder awareness and appreciation of Uganda's NDC is low. In addition, there are limited engagement mechanisms with the local stakeholders due to multiple but malfunctioning community based institutions that need to be coordinated and strengthened. For example, Environmental Committees at sub county, parish and District levels that are mandated to take up the NDC (a relatively new concept) in addition to implementing development and wider environmental conservation activities. Given the multi-stakeholder engagement envisaged for successful implementation of the NDC (and the Paris Agreement commitments in general), it is important that the Climate Change Department (the UNFCCC focal Point), the National Environment Management Authority (principal agency in Uganda, charged with the responsibility of coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising environmental management), CSOs, donors, businesses and Local Governments be coherent in their actions.

The situation in Kenya mimics Uganda's with very few people knowing about the Paris Agreement and the NDCs. Awareness on this can be fast tracked by CSO involvement. Recently, the country launched the Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP) which complements the Paris Agreement. This document which will guide Kenya's green economy can also greatly benefit from awareness creation. In as much as the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (which houses the Climate Change Directorate) involved non-state actors in the preparation of the country's INDC in 2015, this engagement was not sufficient and therefore proper stakeholder engagement that will facilitate views from a wider section of the civil society is deemed necessary in the future.

Tanzania is no different. Currently, the country is in the final stage of preparation of the Low Emission Development Strategies

(LEDS) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Engagement of non-state actors in the process has been inadequate to allow wider contribution of their views. Therefore, proper stakeholder engagement mechanisms are important for wider viewpoints, as well as awareness creation and information dissemination on these key national climate change documents. This can be easily achieved through engagement of CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

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