

Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

www.africaadaptationinitiative.org



Memo: AAI joins Green Climate Fund Global Conference, Songdo, 19-23 August 2019

INTRODUCTION

- The Green Climate Fund held its first Global conference where all developing countries NDA and related Ministers were invited. All Accredited entities were invited as well. Unfortunately we noted that none of developing countries board members participated at the Conference. This should be addressed and remediated to ensure understanding, enhanced coordination and synergy between “policy-makers” at the board and “policy-takers” on the ground;
- In organizing the Conference, the GCF Secretariat highlighted a number of objectives, inter alia:
 - *Bringing together representatives from 135 developing countries, including 50 Ministers, to chart the best ways to direct climate finance flows to match the ambitions, needs and coalescing paths of practical climate action across the planet;*
 - *learning more about how developing countries are incorporating mitigation and adaptation action into their national priorities. This includes enhanced understanding how niche allocations of climate finance can realize their climate objectives under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement;*
 - *empowering developing countries to help build the momentum of global climate ambition signified by the UN Climate Summit in New York next month;*
 - *enhancing GCF understanding of developing country climate needs during the five days of the conference also sharpens its strategic approach to climate finance, a key to GCF’s successful replenishment this year.*

OUTCOMES

- Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) Coordinator had a productive participation at the Five days conference and was able to have strategic exchanges and set emerging opportunities with key stakeholders. AAI Coordinator had sessions with: **(i) African NDAs and Accredited Entities operating in the Continent, (ii) GCF Secretariat, (iii) UNDP, (iv) AfDB, (v) Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), (vi) Maldives on behalf of over 20 SIDS (including at least 4 African SIDS: Guinea Bissau, Comoros, Sao Tome, Seychelles, etc.) who are launching the “Climate Smart and Resilient Islands” Initiative.** Concretization of those emerging opportunities shall go far in further operationalizing the Initiative, by and well beyond UNSG 2019 Climate Summit.



The African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- **(i) African NDAs and Accredited Entities operating in the Continent**
 - The GCF Secretariat was kind enough to allocate an hour-long session to AAI at the end of the “Africa Day”, fourth day of the Conference. The session consisted of a presentation (Background and 2015-2019 activities, 2020-2025 initial workplan and key activities) followed by questions and answers.
 - AAI Coordinator insisted on the Initiative 2020-2025 Roadmap which includes the following: Scaling up the initial 4 AAI Flagships (launched UNGA 2018) with 4 partners (AfDB, ARC, Lake Chad Commission, UNDP-SEI); and launching new collaboration (Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), LIFE-AR, Global Commission on Adaptation, GCF); Commissioning the Africa State of Adaptation Report at 2020 AU Climate Summit & GCA Climate Adaptation Action Summit; Hosting Africa Climate Finance Network & Forum Secretariat and support implementation of its initial 4 year Workplan; Launching at COP 26 Africa 1st continental and thematic climate bond
 - He also presented recommendations of the joint AAI and AAA Dialogue in Rabat, July 22nd and 23rd where initial elements of the AAI Pan-African Readiness was presented and garnered significant interest. This was further confirmed during the GCF Conference with now more than 20 countries having expressed interest in participating.
- **(ii) GCF Secretariat**
 - A meeting with country programming department covering “readiness, NAPs and adaptation planning, and project preparation facility” allowed the Coordinator to present in detail AAI, its vision, strategic objectives and expected results in the next Five years. The coordinator also informed the Secretariat that AAI was part of the very initiatives to be formally presented on September 23rd at UNSG Climate Summit, therefore an indication of its strategic significance and expectations from Leaders, on the Continent, the UNSG and all stakeholders. GCF Secretariat reassured the Coordinator of its support in facilitating access to GCF resources; of course provided that African NDAs whether individually or as a group express interest by submitting the relevant requests. GCF Secretariat will also explore possibility of involving AAI in its outreach and communication events as appropriate
 - A meeting with Private Sector Facility (PSF) Director and her team also took place. PSF Director expressed a keen interest in supporting AAI enhanced operationalization through catalyzing PSF resources for scale-up mobilization of African private sector, and other adequate means to be investigated. PSF Director invited the Coordinator to the Private Sector Dialogue in early October (7th-9th) to explore concrete opportunities for implementation, in particular in the context of the GCF 1st replenishment.
- **(iii) UNDP**
 - A long time partner of AAI, since from its conceptual stage to its inception and launch at COP21 in 2015, UNDP remains AAI’s foremost strategic partner. A meeting with UNDP Deputy Administrator (Mourad Wahba,



- Egyptian national) and his senior staff (Pradeep, Srilata, Rohini) further strengthened the relationship. UNDP committed to the following: work to support the (i) preparation of publicity material in advance of the UNSG Climate Summit including (ii) updating the website, preparing any brochures as necessary and also a (iii) short term 6-12 months workplan.
- UNDP also committed to work with AAI on facilitating, as appropriate, the implementation of its supported NAPs (7 African Countries NAPs supported by UNDP are either approved or endorsed by GCF Secretariat: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Liberia, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia). The agreed modalities are for UNDP to forward all the approved and endorsed NAPS to AAI for its review. AAI will assess, identifying activities it could facilitate the implementation of. AAI and UNDP would then consult with the country NDA and explore implementation modalities, as appropriate if the NDA so wishes.
- **(iv) AfDB**
 - A meeting with the Bank’s Director for Climate change (Dr. Tony Nyong) produced the following outcomes.
 - Dr. Nyong expressed interest in supporting:
 - (i) a meeting with African SCF and GCF Board members later this year to devise a multi-year strategy ensuring Africa increased significantly access to climate finance; especially exploring how the Continent could maximize its GCF resource mobilization in context of the Fun 1st replenishment;
 - (ii) the establishment of Africa GCF NDA Forum, as presented by AAI Coordinator to African NDA and accredited entities on the Continent. The Coordinator reassured Dr. Nyong he would consult with AGN Chair and revert to him soonest.
 - **(v) Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)**
 - The following three global leaders launched GCA in 2018: Bill Gates, SG Ban Ki-moon, and World Bank CEO Georgieva. The Commission mandate is to elevate the political importance of adaptation, and also make the case that greater resilience is achievable – across the globe. AAI first interacted with the Commission from its onset in 2017, with the objective to strike concrete collaboration and advance on meaningful projects implementation.
 - GCA presented at the Global Conference an initiative **“Resilience and Adaptation strand: Agriculture and Food Security for small-scale food producers”** to be launched at UNSG Climate Summit. The Initiative seeks to enhance the resilience to climate change of 300 millions small-scale agriculture producers in low and middle-income countries by 2030.
 - GCA Coordinator for the Initiative, Mrs. Cristina Del Rio and AAI Coordinator have exchanged on AAI and AAA participation as strategic partners to the Initiative. Further consultations at political level should be lead on both sides in advance of the Climate Summit to concretize modalities of AAI/AAA joining and later, participation in implementation.



- **(vi) Maldives on behalf of “Climate Smart and Resilient Islands” (CSRI) Initiative**
 - Maldives is leading a new Initiative in the context of UNSG Climate Summit on behalf of more than 20 SIDS countries. CSRI The objective is to provide a holistic approach for islands to address climate change in the context of sustainable development, through utilizing natural solutions, promoting innovation and new technologies with associated capacity building, and enhancing access to finance. This would contribute to the execution of bold NDC plans of SIDS. In other words, transforming islands to Climate Smart Resilient Islands (CSRI).
 - Chair Amjad Abdulla (Maldives) coordinates the Initiative, which now counts over 20 countries, including at least 4 African SIDS. He and AAI Coordinator discussed how AAI could support CSRI, in particular, not only sharing lessons learnt from AAI Pan-African Readiness Program but also consider how AAI could assist in developing a similar program. The request is for AAI to facilitate the implementation of a “CSRI Readiness Program”, again taking into account 4 African SIDS have already joined CSRI.

CONCLUSION

- AAI Coordinator intends to take forward all opportunities, especially UNDP, GCA in the context of the UNSG Climate Summit; GCF in the context of its Readiness and NAPs Program, as well as emerging opportunities to be further explored during the Private Sector Dialogue, next October; AfDB by engaging with AGN Chair and revert to Dr. Nyong with indicative dates where consultation with SCF and GCF Board members could take place, as well as initial elements on an Africa GCF NDA Forum workplan and Budget; Finally work with CSRI to ensure that African SIDS adaptation and resilience needs are adequately addressed through this specific initiative, in addition and complementing existing programs

THANKS

The AAI Coordinator extends his gratitude to the GCF Executive Director and his Team for giving AAI the opportunity to present to GCF NDAs and AEs working on the Continent. AAI is also grateful to and commends the AGN Chair for the assistance made available to support the AAI Coordinator’s participation at the GCF Global Conference. As AAI continues towards accelerated implementation; systematically taking advantage of all emerging opportunities, its Coordinator counts on AGN continued support.

Amb. SEYNI NAFO.
AAI COORDINATOR
26.08.19

