

Groupe des Etats d’Afrique  
des Caraïbes et du Pacifique  
(Groupe ACP)



African, Caribbean and  
Pacific Group of States  
(ACP Group)

**Special Meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development on COP22 Outcomes and  
Roadmap to COP23**

**ACP Secretariat 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

A Special Meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development on COP22 Outcomes and Roadmap to COP23 took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the ACP Secretariat, Brussels, Belgium.

The objective of the two-day meeting was to facilitate dialogue and discuss follow-up actions to COP 22, in collaboration with partners, focusing on key issues for the ACP Group of States. Furthermore, the meeting served as a forum to explore ways and means to support ACP countries implement the Paris Agreement and possibilities for an enhanced role for the ACP Group towards a successful COP 23, taking into account priorities in the *ACP Action Plan on Climate Change 2016-2020*.

The ACP Secretary General, Dr. Patrick Gomes, welcomed the participants to the meeting and stressed the importance of providing support to ACP countries in the fight against climate change: “[...] *given the limited financial resources, the ACP Group would prioritise actions and determine the most effective implementation modalities to ensure the greatest impact on the ground in ACP countries*”. The provision of the means of implementation, such as finance for adaptation, capacity and technology development and transfer to developing countries is fundamental in order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The ACP Secretary General stated the full support by the ACP Group of States to the incoming Presidency of COP23, Fiji, an ACP country.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Johnson Weru, Ambassador of Kenya. He was accompanied by the two moderators: the Vice-Chairs of the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development, H.E. Ms. Vilma McNish, Ambassador of Jamaica and H.E. Ms. Mpeo Mahase-Moiloa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The Ambassador of Kenya underlined the importance of closely working with the COP23 Presidency to demonstrate political engagement and leadership and uphold the ambition, momentum and cohesiveness generated in Paris.

The Presidency of the upcoming COP23 was represented by the Counsellor of the Fiji Embassy in Brussels, Mr. Nidhendra Pratap Singh, who echoed the statement made by the Ambassador of Kenya and stressed the importance of working together with the ACP Group of States in order to achieve a successful COP23.

From the European Commission, the Deputy Director General of DG DEVCO delivered a key note address during the opening session. She underlined the strong relationship between the EU and the ACP Group of States based on common principles and objectives and the strong will to continue this collaboration. DG CLIMA, represented by the Director, Directorate A International & Mainstreaming, expressed the continuous support by the EU to ACP countries in reaching their climate commitments.

At the meeting, the ACP Secretariat presented the ACP Assessment Paper comparing the outcomes of COP22 with the ACP Issues Paper on the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference. South Centre presented its assessment of COP22 on the road to COP23 followed by presentations by representatives from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions sharing their positions on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

H.E. Ms Vilma McNish, Ambassador of Jamaica, while opening the floor to presentations by UN agencies and UNFCCC negotiators, expressed the importance of continued collaboration with partner organizations.

The United Nations Environment (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) shared the work they were doing on the ground in relation to the ACP Action Plan on Climate Change 2016-2020.

Climate negotiators to the UNFCCC represented by the advisor to the Least Developed Countries Chair (LDCs), the lead negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the legal adviser to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) presented their views on COP23 and the priorities for their groups.

H.E. Ms. Mpeo Mahase-Moiloa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho, shared the statement made by the Ambassador of Jamaica underlining the importance of creating and strengthening partnerships, the key role for the ACP Group of States in working together with the incoming Presidency of COP23 and the importance of the ACP participation to climate change and other related discussions.

The second day of the meeting focused on discussions around the ACP Roadmap to COP23. The discussions on the Roadmap concentrated on:

- The work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The work under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (the so called “Ocean Conference”, which will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 in New York).
- The role of the ACP group at COP23 and support to Fiji Presidency;
- A list of main events that the ACP Secretariat, supporting the Fiji Presidency, will be organising leading up to and at COP23.

The Roadmap to COP23 is the outcome document of the Special meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development.