



Capacity-building workshop for junior negotiators from ECOWAS, CILSS, and UEMOA member states countries in Climate negotiations

Thirty-nine participants from 14 ECOWAS and CILSS member countries took part at this workshop held from November 17 to 19, 2015 in Cotonou (BENIN).

The workshop was co-organized by CILSS, ECOWAS and UEMOA in the context of their common road map to support the sub-region in preparing COP 21 in Paris .It is part of the activities of the intra program ACP, Global Climate Change Alliance of West Africa (AMCC/GCCA).

The formal ceremony of the workshop was chaired by Mr.AYI BAGLO, climate change technical advisor at the Ministry of Environment in presence of Mr. Abouba DJERI, ECOWAS representative and Mr. Irenée Bio ABOUDOU, Permanent Secretary of CILSS National Committee in Benin

The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacities of junior negotiators of West Africa and Chad for the 21st Conference of Parties on climate, helping them to own the negotiation procedures.

It is especially to help junior negotiators to:

- Understand the background of negotiations and the positions of the Africa Group.
- Identify the technical and economical issues of negotiators and understand the geo-political balance of power
- Understand and own the positions defended by CILSS/ECOWAS region
- Know how to better organize to occupy the field, develop strategic relationships with other countries or group of countries and, finally, support their position until there are included among the adopted decisions

The workshop was conducted by experts from CILSS and ECOWAS with the support of the Study Office SALVA TERRA and Mr. OSAFO as resource person.

The presentations were especially on : Climate Sciences, Climate negotiations, African positions and West African priorities for the negotiations of Paris, the negotiation text after the meeting of June, the analysis of the legal aspects of the draft negotiation text and guidance on the way West African Countries should behave during the coming sessions, Climate funding, the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, negotiation tools and coming strategies for the continuation of the capacity-building.

Major recommendations:

To ECOWAS, CILSS and UEMOA

- Establishment of a mentoring program for young negotiators ,
- Continue this training in order to have gradually senior negotiators to take over,
- Establish a discussion platform within the West African junior negotiators.

To countries

- Promote the real participation of junior negotiators at the major events on climate especially the COP,
- A special place should be given to climate negotiators within national delegations for the COP,
- The delegation of each country should be organized in order to take part to the side events ,
- Create a permanent climate negotiators' team.

To negotiators

- To own the content of the report that will be issued from COP 21.

Overview of the meeting room

