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Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference:

***Towards a just transition that delivers jobs, prosperity and climate resilience in Africa:
leveraging the green and blue economy***

13TH TO 17TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Sal Island, Cabo Verde

Introduction

Africa is often described as the continent most at risk of the adverse effects of climate change, both because of the expected change itself and the perceived lack of capacity of Africans and their governments to adapt to these effects. Increasingly, climate change is seen as disadvantaging Africa to the extent that the continent may have to forego the exploitation of its carbon fossil assets in order to leapfrog to carbon neutrality in its development paradigms. The Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference series was conceived as an annual forum to enable linkages between climate science and development policy by promoting transparent discussions between key stakeholders in the climate change and development community. CCDA seeks to mainstream climate information into decision making and strengthen capacities focusing on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, food security, energy and transport.

In order to provide a platform to confront climate change issues that bedevil the African continent, ClimDev-Africa partners consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), in collaboration with the Government of Cabo Verde, are convening the 9th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-IX) in **Sal Island, Cabo Verde from 13th to 17th September 2021**. The theme of the conference is: ***"Towards an African framework for a Just Transition"***.

The subthemes/tracks are:

- Blue economy, oceans and water
- Health and climate
- Energy, industry and transport
- Food and agriculture
- Nature-based solutions, land use and environment
- Finance

Conference Objectives

CCDA-IX aims to launch a continent-wide debate on what a just transition for Africa should look like, how the continent can develop appropriate frameworks to prepare for the just transition. The specific conference objectives are:

- i. Increasing ambition in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), looking specifically at the financing of the NDCs, the blue economy and related issues.

- ii. Deliberate on how to model the costs of the transition, finance the transition, and the opportunities arising from the just transitions across the globe, with a view to starting a process of preparing the continent to reap the rewards of such a transition.
- iii. Taking stock of numerous challenges and opportunities engendered by the Covid-19 pandemic and how they can be transformed into actionable climate solutions for Africa and the SIDS.

The BUILD Program event at CCDA-IX

PACJA and AFIDEP will lead the BUILD consortium to hold round table discussions with the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) and the African Union (AU) focusing on two conference sub-themes namely: Health and climate; and Food and Agriculture. The aim will be to deliberate on FP/RH/PED and climate change nexus with the ultimate goal of creating understanding on the role of PED approaches in fostering climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Specifically, the discussions will:

- i) Sensitize climate change stakeholders on the nexus between FP/RH, Food, Agriculture, Health and Environment
- ii) Foster dialogue on the needs that are of priority to Africa in respect to reproductive health, nature-based solutions, land use and environment
- iii) Advocate for incorporation of Population dynamics into the African position ahead of COP26

The Round table discussions

It is anticipated that the event will attract a targeted audience of comprising of AGN, AU, African parliamentarians, researchers, CSOs and development partners. Through the contacts of PACJA being one of the organizers, a team will be assembled and a succinct key note presentation made on FP/RH/PED and the selected sub-themes of the conference.

The key note presentation titled ***“Role of FP/RH and PED in propelling realization of an African Framework for a Just Transition”*** will be made with emphasis on the benefits of FP in the health, food, agriculture, environment and climate sectors.

The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session that is anticipated to ignite strategic dialogue on key population and climate change issues that will be included in the sub-theme reports and also escalated into the main conference report. The discussions will resonate around the need to:

1. **Embrace integrated PED policy and programming** as a key strategy for enhancing resiliency of governments and communities to climate change effects and harm
2. **Utilize population data and projections** in planning key climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all sectors
3. **Invest in cross-cutting issues** such as livelihood improvement, youth and women empowerment. These investments offer opportunities to improve human health and well-being and consequently result in sustainable consumption patterns

4. **Promote review of national environment, health and development policies, strategies and institutional frameworks** to embrace the integrated PED approaches as a way of fostering adoption and institutionalization of PED
5. **Positively influence population dynamics** through prioritization of measures aimed at reducing unsustainable levels of population growth in order to lessen pressure on natural resources and ultimately reduce the impact of climate change shocks.

Anticipated outcome of the BUILD Round Table Discussion

Following the successful hosting of the round table discussions, it is anticipated that high level climate decision makers in the African Continent will begin to appreciate the role of integrated FP/RH and PED approach as a catalyst for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and that the PED language will be visible in the conference report.