

ACP/84/027/19
SEDT Dept.

Brussels, 15 March 2019

**ACP SECRETARIAT NOTE ON THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT ON COP24 OUTCOMES AND ROADMAP TO COP25**

ACP Secretariat, Brussels

5 – 6 March 2019

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP14) took place from the 3rd to the 14th December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.
2. The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States organized a Special Meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development on COP24 Outcomes and Roadmap to COP25 on 5th and 6th March 2019 to facilitate dialogue and discuss follow-up actions to COP24, in collaboration with partners, focusing on key issues for the ACP Group of States, including specificities for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Land-locked Countries.
3. The objectives of this Special Meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development were (i) to explore means and ways to support ACP Countries in the updates of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) expected for 2020 building on the ACP Report "*Climate Ambitions: An analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in ACP countries*"; (ii) to organize an event during the United Nations General Secretary's Climate Summit and the 74th General Assembly Debate in September 2019 in collaboration with regional and other partners; and (iii) to identify other potential international and regional opportunities of relevance for the ACP Group to collaborate on ensuring that issues of importance to the Group are brought to the fore and addressed, leading up to COP25 in Chile.
4. Participants included representatives of ACP Countries in Brussels, regional partner organizations, European Commission, climate negotiators, South Centre, United Nations, other institutions, international organizations and civil society organizations.
5. This note provides an overview of the outcomes of this Special Meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development and recommendations to ensure follow-up actions.

II. OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

6. The first day of the Special meeting started with opening remarks delivered by: the ACP Assistant Secretary General for SEDT, Mr Viwanou Gnassounou; the Ambassador of Samoa and Chair of the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development, H.E. Fatumanava-O-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru; the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations and Chair of AOSIS, H.E. Ms Lois Young. The ACP Secretariat presented the

“ACP Secretariat Note on the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24)” (Ref. ACP/84/023/19) to assess the outcomes based on the *“ACP Issues Paper on the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24)”*. South Centre and DG CLIMA presented their perspective on COP24 outcomes and recommendations for next steps towards COP25. UNFCCC climate negotiators: Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and African Group of Negotiators (AGN) delivered presentations on their negotiating groups’ perspectives on COP24 highlighting key issues and the way forward. The ten regional organisations provided their regional outlook to COP25 focusing on specific regional challenges.

7. On the second day participants discussed priority issues and key events for the ACP Group for 2019 based on the presentations of the first day. The Roadmap to COP25 was agreed with the following Key events:

- 18-22 March 2019 UNFCCC Regional Climate week (Africa, Accra Ghana)
- 20-22 March 2019 Second UN high-level conference on south-south cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 17-27 June 2019 UNFCCC intersessional in Bonn, Germany (the “50th session of the subsidiary bodies”)
- August 2019 Latin America & Caribbean Regional Climate week (Salvador – Brazil)
- 2-6 September Asia- Pacific Regional Climate week (location tbc)
- 23-26 September 2019 UN 2019 Climate Summit, UN high-level political forum on sustainable development and high-level dialogue on financing for development in New York, USA
- September 2019 SAMOA Pathway Mid-term Review (UNHQ)
- October 2019 Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting, Pacific Samoa (tbc)
- October/November 2019 ACP Preparatory meeting for COP25 (tbc)
- 2-13 December 2019, COP25 in Chile
- GCF Dialogue with the African region (date TBC);

8. Participants also identified the following as the main actions for the ACP Group to focus on under climate change:

- Strengthen capacity in ACP Countries and regions:

a. to formulate science, policy and action

- b. to access resources (finance, technology, capacity, etc.)
- c. to implement and measure impact (MRV and M&E)
- d. to report to multilateral level

- Enhance ACP regional participation at relevant negotiation processes;
- Increase ACP visibility and communication at key international events;
- Enhance partnerships within ACP and between ACP and partners (e.g. ACP Secretariat as hub to enhance this support).

9. Participants were then divided into five breakout groups to discuss regional priority issues. The working group outcomes are attached, while below is a list of some of the specific immediate activities common to all working groups:

- NDCs update/revision;
- Means of implementation (MoI): capacity building, finance and technology transfer;
- Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRV);
- Private sector engagement.

III. Conclusions

The Special meeting was very successful and well attended. The following needs were identified by the meeting:

- More support on NDCs review, update and implementation;
- ACP Secretariat to play a bigger and efficient role as a hub serving and supporting the climate negotiating groups;
- Support to the AOSIS Group.

IV. Recommendations

The above-mentioned issues and priorities fall within the scope of the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme. However, as the Programme resources are limited and constrained, it is recommended to top up the resources of the Programme in order to adequately and appropriately respond to ACP countries' needs on climate change, including those highlighted above.