



INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's European Development Fund

Joint Side-event by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the Pacific Community (SPC):

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC): Implications and way forward for ACP Small Island States, Coastal and low-lying zones

4th December 2019 13.45 – 14.45, Madrid Spain
Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, IFEMA exhibition centre

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The ACP Secretariat organised a Special Subcommittee meeting in preparation for COP25 on the 23rd October 2019 in Brussels to discuss ACP priority issues on the way to COP25. The major outcome of the meeting was the *ACP Issues Paper on the Chile Climate Change Conference (COP25)*.

The ACP Issues Paper addressed issues under consideration at COP including mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and foreseen outcomes of COP 25 among others. The document will guide ACP Member States during the negotiations providing a common position at COP25 in Madrid, Spain.

One of the issues highlighted in the paper is the importance of science-based policy-making, and in this regard, support to the IPCC reports, among others. The *IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, published in October 2019, is given central prominence in this side event. It states that “as a result of climate change, the oceans are warmer, resulting in sargassum blooms, as well as becoming more acidic and less productive. Glaciers and ice sheets in polar and mountain regions are melting thus contributing to sea level rise”.¹

¹ *ACP Issues Paper on the Chile Climate Change Conference (COP25)*.



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To this purpose, the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States is organising a side event on the margins of the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place from the 2nd to the 13th December in Madrid, Spain, under the patronage of the Chilean Government. The side event will discuss the findings of the IPCC Special report and what this means in terms of adaptation measures for ACP Small Island States, Coastal and low-lying zones.

The side event is scheduled to take place on the 4^h December 2019 from 13.45 to 14.45 at the **Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion** established in partnership with the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji with the support of SPREP and the One CROP Plus.

Objectives

The side event will:

- Discuss the findings of the IPCC report;
- Share on-ground experiences from ACP Islands States, coastal and low-lying zones;
- Share adaptation measures in place or planned in ACP countries.

Organization and participants

The side event will be organised at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) (TBC). The event will feature one of the authors of the IPCC report, Dr. Elisabeth Holland from the University of South Pacific (USP), one the regional organisations implementing the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Pacific.

Welcoming remarks will be delivered by the Chair of the session, Mr. Olusola Ojo, Head of Delegation to COP 25, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

Introductory remarks will be delivered by a representative of the Pacific Community (SPC) (TBC).

Prof. Elisabeth Holland, Norway Pacific Chair in Oceans and Climate Change will set the scene and present the findings of the report and the way forward.

Other authors of the report will provide further insights into the implications for ACP Islands States, coastal and low-lying zones.

Representatives from ACP Countries will provide concrete examples of adaptation measures in the Pacific.

An open discussion will follow allowing for additional inputs from participants. Representatives from the Negotiation Groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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(UNFCCC), ACP Regions, partners, non-state actors and the public at large will be invited to take part in the discussion. Dr Maro will also moderate the discussion. The ACP Secretariat will deliver the closing remarks.

Draft agenda

- 5 min **Chair: Mr. Olusola Ojo**, Head of Delegation to COP 25, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
- 5 min **Introductory remarks by Ms Sylvie Goyet**, Director, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, The Pacific Community (SPC).
- 10 min **Prof. Holland**, Norway Pacific Chair in Oceans and Climate Change, University of South Pacific (USP)
Setting the scene: Findings of the report and way forward
- 10 min **Karina von Schuckmann**, Mercator Ocean International
The important role of the Ocean and its changes
- 10 min **Dr. Kanizio Manyika**, UNFCCC Focal Point of the United Republic of Tanzania
Concrete examples of adaptation measures in their country
- 20 min **Discussion**
Moderated by Dr. Pendo Maro, Team Leader Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme