

Opening Remarks

Third Steering Committee Meeting of the ACMAD/ClimSA project

By Chairman of the ACMAD's Board of Governors on April 18 2023,

at ONOMO Hotel Abidjan- Cote d' Ivoire

Dear Director General of SODEXAM or his Representative

My deep thanks to you for this wonderful hospitality and this memorable organization of this event.

Dear African Union Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, Dr. NYAMBE it is a pleasure and honour to have you in this very important dialogue

Representative of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

Representatives of partners organizations (WMO, EUMETSAT, JRC....)

Representatives of all other stakeholders physically here or listening online through virtual platforms

Dear friends and colleagues,

For this overview on our meeting today, i start by reminding all of us that just last year 2022, we all witnessed impacts of climate events with yet again significant disruption on key sectors of society and economy across the continent.

This situation demonstrates how important and urgent climate services and related applications programme is for Africa.

ACMAD and partners are implementing this programme and we are gathered today to review the achievements of the second year of implementation and provide guidance and oversight for the third year.

We together will analyse the achievements to date, actions planned for the next 12 months and use our collective wisdom to contribute toward a credible path to avert climate disasters hitting Africa year in year out. The efforts to provide solutions to the climate crisis are uniting us today and together we will prevail.

Your participation today and during the upcoming two days will;

- Strengthen the User Interface platforms to accelerate tailoring and uptake of climate information;

- Support further modernization of climate information services through National Meteorological Services and related Regional Climate Centres;
- Accelerate digital transformation including access to data for all Stakeholders;
- Reinforce capacities for the generation and delivery of Climate Services;
- Further integration of climate information, knowledge and understanding in decision and policies for sustainable development.

Most importantly, inclusive dialogue and discussion approaches will contribute to a shared plan we all will support implementation during the upcoming months.

Given the challenges ahead, we must pack courage in our suitcases as we head towards a sustainable Africa, facing future climate events and contributing to reducing their adverse impacts on our communities.

We will continue efforts under this programme to strengthen climate services value chain and accelerate movement towards the much expected universal early warning coverage. This programme is yet another evidence of the strong solidarity and partnership between Africa and Europe.

Let's put all our hands on deck for bold guidance on climate services and applications.

With these words, I look forward to a rich discussion and indeed beyond as we strive to strengthen our ability to deliver real climate information and applications solutions to the very real challenges that we face to save the generations to come and ourselves.

Thank you.