|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CENTRE AFRICAIN POUR LES APPLICATIONSDE LA METEOROLOGIE AU DEVELOPPEMENT |  | | AFRICAN CENTRE OF METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT |
| Institution Africaine parrainée par la CEA et l’OMM | | African Institution under the aegis of UNECA and WMO | |

ACMAD's Statement at Second ACMAD’s ClimSA project Steering Committee meeting

May 05, 2022

Title: Towards strengthening Climate Service value chain

Your Excellencies

Honorable Heads of Organizations and ACMAD Board Members

Permanent Representatives of countries with the WMO

Representatives of the WMO, AUC and partner institutions

Distinguished invited Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to share with you these words of welcome.

On behalf of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their cooperation and generosity in hosting this second ACMAD’s ClimSA Steering Committee meeting.

Following the severe droughts of the 1970s and 80s in Africa, ACMAD was established to deliver and help apply continental level forecasts, advisories and watches. The ClimSA programme seeks to strengthen climate service value chain therefore contributing to reduction of **weaknesses in climate information and knowledge systems** preventing effective climate policy and action for a resilient and sustainable Africa.

ClimSA therefore provides technical and financial assistance as well as capacity building to address the climate challenge at the base of ACMAD’s creation.

The centre is more than ever determined to leverage on the strengths of partnerships to better serve member states supporting resilience to disasters and adaptation to climate change therefore helping to realize the AU agenda 2063 " The Africa we want" and the Sustainable Development Goals with new and value added continental scale meteorological services.

The centre is at the heart of efforts to build resilience to extremes events and reduce impacts of climate change on Africa's development initiatives as enshrined into the Paris Agreement.

As a threat multiplier climate change is exacerbating vulnerability and risks. Examples of the 2015/16 drought over southern Africa with one of the most important hydropower plant of the region ( Kariba dam) ceasing operations leaving some countries short of electricity.

More recently cyclone Idai significantly impacted Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

In April 2022 (last month) over the South African province of Kwazulu Natal torrential rains led to the worst floods in decades with unprecedented losses and damages in recent history. This is the story year in and year out across the continent. But there is hope.

Drought in the IGAD region characterized the last quarter of 2021 and for the first-time, we were encouraged at the climate finance day at COP 26 in Glasgow to hear that declaration of state of drought emergency occurred in September 2021 in Kenya for the drought that unfolded over the IGAD region during the last quarter of 2021. This drought impacts are still being felt today and evidence of rainfall deficits during the following MAM 2022 now unfolding are signaling persistence of the drought emergency. Such a good practice in East Africa of mainstreaming climate outlooks in high level policy making should be sustained and extended to other regions across the continent with ClimSA and other programmes. ACMAD is mobilizing partners to achieve this goal.

Assessment published in the annual reports on the state of Africa’s climate so far has identified:

* the past few years among the top 10 warmest years in the record since 1950 over Africa.
* the warming rate which moved from 2°C per century between 1950 and now to above 3°C per century from the 90s to current.

The centre's weather and climate monitoring and forecasting efforts are now putting emphasis on sector focused products co-designed and co-developed to better meet the needs: The following information requirements have been documented to guide our work:

- heavy rains, late start and early cessation of the agriculture season ;

- abnormally high and low seasonal total precipitation.

Floods, droughts, disruptions of hydropower production and distribution, mud and landslides leading to substantial losses and damages  
are recorded across Africa costing up to 2% of some countries GDP.

However, declarations of droughts, floods emergencies or disasters are still provided post events and most interventions are post disaster responses ( The KwaZulu Natal province torrential rains is a sad reminder).

The African Union Commission through the African Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, WMO, ACMAD, ARC, UNDRR, UNECA and the African Development Bank are building the ecosystem of institutions and projects essential to holistically support effective resilience and adaptation across the continent. Leveraging on and learning lessons from CLIMDEV Africa and other programmes will certainly ensure effective planning, organization and direction very much needed given the urgency for climate action.

This meeting will review achievements so far and discuss future ClimSA activities on supporting User Interface, high quality climate services, better access to data and information, capacity building and integration of climate information in decision making.

I wish to express my appreciation to all for finding time in your busy schedules to participate in this event.  
Thank you again for joining and we look forward to fruitful discussions and stronger partnerships forward.

File date:

Thursday, May 05, 2022

Author or statement by::

Andre KAMGA FOAMOUHOUE

Director General

ACMAD

P O Box 13184

Niamey-Niger

Webportal: <http://acmad.org/>