



Report from the Climate Change Negotiations, at COP 17, 28 November – 9 December 2011

The water community has taken further steps in the right direction at COP 17 in Durban. In more general terms, if the SBSTA/SBI negotiations in Bonn in June meant a breakthrough for a strong and broad recognition of water as a cross cutting resource, Durban meant a breakthrough for the recognition of water resources as key not only in adaptation but also in mitigation efforts. This issue got attention and interest from Parties as well as NGOs.

On the specific issues and despite a very small team, the Water and Climate Coalition was able to follow the discussions of our key issues; the continuation of the Nairobi Work Programme, the negotiations on the Adaptation Committee and the Green Climate Fund. We have had great help and support by members from FAN, CI and Green Cross and a very good collaboration with our partners GWP and CONAGUA and also with AMCOW. In this, we have been able to support a major push by a number of parties, in particular by Ecuador, Bangladesh and Mexico, and also by also several Latin-American and African countries, not the least by the South African Minister Edna Molewa who is also the president AMCOW.

SBSTA and SBI negotiations

The SBSTA and SBI negotiations took place during the first week, ending with a very late final session on the Saturday evening of the 3rd. For the Coalition 2 major issues were in the forefront:

1. to ensure that the publishing of the technical paper on water would lead to a SBSTA request to organize a workshop on water and climate
2. to maintain the momentum from the June session in order to achieve the goal of a thematic focus on water in the next phase of the Nairobi Work Programme

With a great push from Ecuador already in the opening session of SBSTA, the issue of water was on the agenda from the beginning. Bangladesh, supported by several developing countries pushed hard for a workshop on water and since most Parties, including the EU and the USA were supportive this suggestion also materialized in a decision.

The following decisions BY SBSTA 35¹, were put forward to COP 17 and adopted;

1. SBSTA-technical paper and workshop

Para 4; Request the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with the NWP partner organisations and other relevant organisations...

a) a technical workshop, before the thirty –seventh session of the SBSTA, on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies

Para 5; Further request the secretariat to report on the workshops...to be made available by the thirty-seventh session of SBSTA.

Thus, the water issue will be brought back to SBSTA for further discussions, and thus there is a possibility to come back with the request of a permanent and self-standing agenda issue on water under SBSTA.

2. A thematic focus on water in the next phase of the Nairobi Work Programme

The issue regarding a thematic focus on water under the NWP was not finalized as the decision on whether NWP will have thematic focus areas, in addition to the current nine working areas, was postponed. There were several reasons for the postponement, one being disagreement over whether to bring in thematic focus issues at all., and The other was whether the Nairobi Work Programme and other issues under SBSTA and SBI (such as the National adaptation plans, and Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries) shall relate to the Adaptation framework and the Adaptation Committee, negotiated under the AWG-LCA.

The draft decision proposed:

Para 2; Invite Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat *by 17 September 2012*, their views on potential future areas of work of the NWP.

Para 6; Request the SBSTA to consider, at its thirty-ninth session, relevant information on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change arising from the implementation of the NWP for consideration *by other relevant bodies under the convention*.

We should dialogue with Parties at an early stage with suggestions on the submissions on the future work of the NWP, and we must closely follow the discussion on the future linkages between NWP and the Cancun Committee.

Adaption Committee and Green Climate Fund

The discussions related to the Cancun Agreement, among them the Adaptation Committee and the Green Climate Fund, started the first week. Most discussions were held in informal groups, closed for NGOs. However, the Coalition was able to follow the negotiations due to good cooperation with several Parties and members. The negotiations lasted until the very end of COP 17 with the following outcome of particular interest for out upcoming work next year²;

¹ SBSTA/2011/L.26/Add.1/ Draft decision -/CP.17

² Draft decision [-/CP.17] Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

Para 94; *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee should make use of the following modalities in exercising its functions:

(a) Workshops and meetings;

(b) Expert groups;

(c) Compilation, review, synthesis, analysis reports of information, knowledge, experience and good practice;

(d) Channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise;

(e) Coordination and linkages with all relevant bodies, programmes, institutions and networks, within and outside the Convention;

Para 99; *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to engage and develop linkages through the Conference of the Parties with all adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention, including the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Technology Executive Committee, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the work programme on loss and damage and the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;

Para 100 ; *Also requests* the Adaptation Committee **to engage with, and draw on the expertise of, relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels, where appropriate;**

Para 103; *Encourages* Parties **to nominate experts to the Adaptation Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change,** while also taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7;

In the texts on the Green Climate Fund, 2 funding windows are suggested, one for adaptation and one for mitigation³;

C. Funding windows and fund structure

Para 37; The Fund will have thematic funding windows. Initially the Fund will have windows for adaptation and mitigation. An integrated approach to funding mitigation and adaptation will be used to allow for cross-cutting projects and programmes.

Para 38; The Board shall also ensure adequate resources for capacity-building and technology development and transfer. The Fund will also provide resources for innovative and replicable approaches.

³ Green Climate Fund, report of the Transitional Committee Draft decision -/CP.17

Para 39; The Board will consider the need for additional windows. The Board will have the authority to add, modify and remove additional windows and substructures or facilities as appropriate.

This means that between COP 17 and COP 18 there is a critical momentum for working to get water knowledge addressed and represented in the frameworks of the Adaptation Committee and the Green Climate Fund.

In order to effectively take on and further the water agenda there are a number of additional issues that the Coalition should follow closely:

- the discussion on the NAPs, REDD+,
- loss and damages and
- future CDM mechanisms.

At present, however, it is not possible to follow these areas with the limited number of people from the Coalition attending the negotiations.

The Water and Climate Coalition (WCC) brings together stakeholders from the global water and climate community to promote progressive and integrated international water and climate change policy. WCC currently consists of 14 members and 2 collaborative partners^[1]

The WCC team to COP 17 consisted of:

Mubarick Masawudu, 27 Nov – 3 Dec

Katarina Veem, 28 Nov – 6 Dec

Karin Lexén, 29 Nov – 7 Dec

Kirsty Schneeberger, 28 Nov – 9 Dec (but also responsible for the Outreach)

Rolando Castro, 29 Nov – 2 Dec

^[1] *Members:* Cap-Net, Chartered Institute for Water and Environmental Management, Green Cross International, Freshwater Action Network, IUCN, Instituto Ipanema, International Water Association (IWA), Progressio, Stakeholder Forum, Stockholm International Water Institute, University of North Carolina, The Nature Conservancy, World Wide Foundation (WWF). *Collaborative partners:* Global Water Partnership (GWP), Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC) and CONAGUA

WATER, CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT DAY – December 3rd and December 6th

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Water needs to be sufficiently addressed on the UNFCCC agenda** since it is part of Article 4.1 e of the Climate Change Convention. Climate change is to a large extent water change and the water community is already dealing with the challenges. The existing experience and knowledge needs to be shared. In partnership – Africa, developing countries and development partners need to work strategically to ensure water resources as a thematic focus in the UNFCCC.
- **Water is not a sector, it is a resource.** Climate change is making water resources management more complex due to the uncertainty and unpredictability in weather patterns. The complexity and cross-cutting nature of water must be fully acknowledged. Addressing water is not about bringing in sectoral interests, but a way of systematically addressing complexities that currently are addressed under headings such as hazards, floods, droughts,
- **Water is about both adaptation and mitigation.** It needs to be distinctly pointed out that the success of most mitigation interventions, as determined by the UNFCCC, rest upon the availability and sustainability of water resources.
- **Water knowledge expertise needs to inform the adaptation committee** to ensure linkages between NWP and the Cancun Agreement, emphasizing importance of water as a key medium for adaptation. Qualified water resource management expertise should be represented amongst the members of the Adaptation Committee
- **We welcome the SBSTA draft decision to organize a technical workshop on water.** This can be strengthened by establishing a thematic focus under the Nairobi Work Programme.
- **Establish water as a priority under the Green Climate Fund** with a sub thematic funding window for water resources management.
- **The Africa Green fund should include a thematic funding window for water resources** to be utilized for projects related to water management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

On December 3rd and December 6th WCC, and African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Department of Water Affairs, (DWA) South Africa and Global Water Partnership (GWP) arranged **Water, Climate and Development Day** events. December 3rd was an all-day event and December 6th was a high level panel where key messages from the 3rd were highlighted and discussed. Both meetings took place in the Africa Pavilion at COP 17 in Durban (complete programme for the events are attached at the end of this report).

Both events were very well attended and we received numerous positive and spontaneous comments regarding the content and the value of the topic as such. Water, and its interconnectedness with Climate Change and how this is addressed and managed on the development and funding agendas, is a theme which clearly is on the rise.

On **December 3rd** the rich programme brought intensive, challenging and insightful information and discussions in four sessions and a distinguished panel discussion. Moreover, the meeting was framed with eloquent and poignant introductory and closing statements. The four sessions were on:

- Global Policy Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation;
- Infrastructure Technical and Ecosystem Solutions;
- Climate Change Information Solutions for Water Resources;
- Financial and Institutional Solutions.

Highly regarded and respected speakers from numerous countries shared their experiences in opening statements and discussions amongst speakers, panelists, moderators and the audience. The overarching message – “Water is a resource, and not a sectorial issue, and therefore it needs to be appropriately included in climate change agendas” – firmly emerged as it was pointed to from various global perspectives to the more than 100 member audience. The key messages, as found in the box above, were carried from December 3rd to the High level panel on December 6th.

Running up to December 3rd the Coalition network had been in dialogue with Youth organisations attending COP 17. They organized a manifestation as representatives of new and coming generations – focusing on the issue of water with the slogan “Where is water in the CUP/COP17?” and their demands were guided by the WCC position statement.

December 6th started off with distinguished Mme Edna Molewa (Minister of Water Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa and President of African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW). She strongly thanked and expressed her support to the organisers of the water day events. Clearly emphasizing that water is a key issue that needs to be given due consideration in the climate and financial discussions.

After a presentation by Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, who highlighted the issue of water and the complexities of the negotiations the links were made to the Water, Climate and Development Day on Dec. 3rd. To frame the high level panel discussion, Mr Anders Bertell (Executive Director of SIWI), representing the Coalition presented the key messages (see box above) for the consideration and discussion of the high level panel. The more than 150 attendees followed the distinguished high level panelists as they opened with statements, each one from their respective perspectives, geographic and political contexts. Panel moderator, Daniel Mokokere, followed up the statements with questions and opened up the floor for questions from the engaged audience.

The key messages from December 3rd continued to colour most interventions. Unfortunately the discussion had to close 45 minutes early due to security and rescheduling conflicts. Many felt that the session had to end too quickly. However, the concluding statements of Dr Ania Grobicki (GWP) and Commissioner Rhoda Peace Timusiime sent all off knowing that most key questions that make waters case in the climate context had been addressed AND that the collaboration between WCC and numerous African and international institutions had been a major success. WCC has clearly contributed to ensuring and through lobbying, establishing, water on the climate agenda.

COP 17

Water, Climate & Development Day

3 December 2011: Water Day and High Level Dialogue 1

Africa Pavilion, River

09.00-09.45 - INTRODUCTION AND SETTING THE SCENE

- *Welcoming Remarks: Madam RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture*
- *Interconnectedness of water, climate and development: Dr. ANIA GROBICKI, GWP Executive Secretary*
- *Building blocks for integrating water into the climate regime: Mr. ANDERS BERNTSELL, Water and Climate Coalition; Executive Director, SIWI*

09.45-10.45 - SESSION 1: GLOBAL POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Chair: Dr. MAHMOUD ABU-ZEID, Arab Water Council President

- *Water and the Nairobi Work Programme: Mr. YOUSSEF NASSEF, Manager, Adaptation Sub-programme*
- *UNFCCC Secretariat Perspectives on water and climate change in UNFCCC Negotiations: Mr. CHRIS MOSEKI*
- *Sustaining ecosystems and economies through water: Mr. CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, Vice President, Conservation International*
- *Water key for both adaptation and mitigation: Mr. SIMON THUO, GWP Eastern Africa Regional Coordinator*

10.45-11.00 - COFFEE BREAK

11.00-12.00 – PANEL DISCUSSION; Global Policy Solutions

Discussion on building blocks for integrating water into the climate regime

Moderator: Ms KARIN LEXÉN, Water and Climate Coalition

12.00-13.00 - SESSION 2: INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNICAL AND ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS

Chair: Mr. Trevor Balzer, AMCOW TAC President

- *Optimising water infrastructure for climate adaptation and mitigation: Mr. SERING JALLOW, Director, Water and Sanitation Department, AfDB*
- *Building resilience through water resources management for mitigating climate change; experience from Mexico and Latin America: Mr. ELIAS FREIG, Manager-Carbon Finance and Climate Change Economics, National Water Commission (CONAGUA), Mexico*
- *Ecosystem Services and linkages between adaptation and mitigation: Mr. FRANK LOWENSTEIN, Director, Global Adaptation Team, The Nature Conservancy*

13.00-15.00 - SESSION 3: CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION FOR WATER RESOURCES

Key Solutions for enhanced climate data, climate information and water development for countries

Chair: Mr. ARBA DIALLO, Chair of GWP West Africa

Opening address: Mr. BALOYI, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa

Mr. SAROJ JHA
Mr. BAI MASS TAAL

*Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Bank
Executive Secretary, AMCOW*

<i>Mr. SELESHI BEKELE</i>	<i>Senior Climate and Water Specialist, ACPC, UNECA</i>
<i>Prof. SHEM WANDIGA</i>	<i>Professor, University of Nairobi</i>
<i>Mr. ALHASSANE ADAMA DIALLO</i>	<i>Director General, ACMAD</i>
<i>Prof. BRUCE HEWITSON</i>	<i>Professor, University of Cape Town</i>
<i>Mr. HARESH BHOJWANI</i>	<i>International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Columbia University</i>
<i>Dr. ELENA HANAENKOVA</i>	<i>Assistant Secretary General, WMO</i>
<i>Ms. RUTH BEUKMAN</i>	<i>Executive Secretary, GWP Southern Africa</i>
<i>Mr. JAN EGELAND</i>	<i>Co-Chair of the Taskforce for the Global Framework on Climate Services</i>
<i>Dr. LINDA MAKULENI</i>	<i>CEO of the South Africa Weather Service</i>

15.00-16.00 - SESSION 4: FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SOLUTIONS

Building Blocks for Prioritising Water in Climate Finance and Institutional Frameworks

Chair: MS MONICA SCATASTA, Deputy Economic Adviser, Water and Waste Management Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank

- *Integrating water and climate resilience into national development and institutional frameworks and UNFCCC International Green Climate Fund: Prof. MIKE MULLER, GWP Technical Committee*
- *Towards an Africa Climate Change Green Fund: Constraints and opportunities, Mr. ALY ABOU-SABAA, Chair of the AfDB Climate Change Coordination Committee*
- *Raising corporate awareness of global water issues: The importance of disclosure and action: Mr. PAUL SIMPSON, CEO Carbon Disclosure Project*

16.00-17.00

Reflections and Perspectives for Integrating Water into the Climate Regime

Moderator: Mr BAI MASS TAAL, AMCOW Executive Secretary

Mr SIMON BROOKS, Vice President, European Investment Bank

Dr ANIA GROBICKI, Executive Secretary, GWP

Mr ANDERS BERNTSELL, Water and Climate Coalition, Executive Director, SIWI

17.00-17.10 - Summary of Key Messages for COP 17: Next Steps and Close of Day

Madam RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

HIGH LEVEL PANEL 2: Water, Climate and Development

Tuesday 6 December 2011: How to Integrate Water into the Climate Regime and Economic Development Africa Pavilion, River room

Chair: **Hon MONYANE MOLELEKI**, Minister of Water Resources, Lesotho

Facilitated by: Mr BAI MASS TAAL, AMCOW Executive Secretary

09:00 OPENING STATEMENT

Hon EDNA MOLEWA, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa;
President of African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW)

09:15 OVERVIEW OF WATER IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING LANDSCAPE

Mr RICHARD KINLEY, UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary

09.30 PANEL DISCUSSION; OUTCOMES OF THE WATER, CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT DAY – BUILDING BLOCKS FOR INTEGRATING WATER INTO THE CLIMATE REGIME

Moderator: Mr DANIEL MOKOKERA

Introduction: Mr ANDERS BERNTELL, Water and Climate Coalition, Executive Director, SIWI

- **Hon MARIA MUTAGAMBA**, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda
- **Mr JATTO SILLAH**, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of The Gambia
- **Mr ANDERS FLANKING**, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden
- **Mr BRUNO OBERLE**, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Switzerland
- **Mr JOS DELBEKE**, Director General, DG Climate Action European Commission
- **Mr JOSE VALENCIA**, Ambassador of Ecuador to South Africa
- **Mr SIMON BROOKS**, Vice President, European Investment Bank

11.40 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Dr ANIA GROBICKI, Executive Secretary, GWP

11:50 CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

Madam RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture