

Extraordinary Conference of the ECCAS and EAC Ministers about the Acceleration of the Operationalization of the Climate Commission for the Congo Basin, the Blue Fund of the Congo Basin, and the Fund for the Green Business in Central Africa and about the Adoption of the common position to the COP 23.

Brazzaville, Radisson Blu, 3 - 5 october 2017.

CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

From 6 to 17 November 2017 will take place in Bonn, Germany, the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23) to the Framework Convention of the United Nations on the Climate Change (CCNUCC) under the Presidency of Fiji.

This COP has the particularity to be organized after the COP 22 which took place in Marrakech in November 2016, held in a context of the coming into effect of the Paris Agreement adopted during the COP 21, this historical agreement which marked the end of a long process of negotiation of the universal agreement after the failure of Copenhagen in 2009.

Among so many decisions adopted at the COP 22 at Marrakech in the Morocco Kingdom , is enshrined the Action Plan of Marrakech, paving the way to the era of solutions and concrete actions about the fight against the climate change. This is in view of extending the speech to the concrete solutions on the ground in relation with the economic development expected by the States, the enterprises and the populations.

In this momentum, His Majesty the King of Morocco took the initiative to organize on 16 November at the Palais des Congrès of Marrakech as a side event of the COP 22, a Summit of African Heads of States and Government in view of affirming the will of the continent “to tackle its destiny, to speak with one word and to unite efforts to fight climatic disrupting and enhance its resilience”. Following this “African Summit of Action in favor of a continental co – emergence “a said declaration of Marrakech was adopted.

The King of Morocco, in relation with the acting President of the African Union was chosen to work for the implementation of this Declaration, mainly at the level of the coordination and the follow up of the priority initiatives in the domain of the fight against the climate change and the sustainable development as well as the mobilization of the bilateral and multilateral partners of the continent.

In this framework, the Heads of States decided the creation of three climate commissions dedicated to:

- The Sahel Region presided over by Niger
- The Congo Basin Region presided over by Congo
- The insular Region presided over by Seychelles

This important declaration, expected by the African populations affected by the effects of the climate change, likely those of Lake Chad residents, has been discussed by the 28th ordinary session of the meeting of the Heads of States and Government of the African Union organized from 30 to 31 January 2017 at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

2. Operationalization of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin

The first phase of the Operationalization of the Climate Commission of the Congo basin took place at Oyo (North of Congo) on the occasion of the launching on 9 March 2017 of the process for the creation of the Blue Fund of the Congo Basin by **His Excellency Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, President of the Republic** Head of State, President acting for the Coordination and the follow up of the activities of the said commission.

The Blue Fund for the Congo Basin is a tool of regional integration covering as well the member states of the Economic Community of the Central African States and those of the East Africa Community, two of the eight regional economic communities – RECs – of the African Union.

Following the proceedings, a MOU for the creation of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin was signed by the following states of both communities:

- The Republic of Angola
- The Republic of Burundi
- The Republic of Cameroon
- The Central African Republic
- The Republic of Congo
- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- The Republic of Gabon
- The Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- The Republic of Rwanda
- The Republic of Chad
- The United Republic of Tanzania
- The Republic of Zambia

After a first phase of the confirmation of the commitment of the Republic of Congo and its President to ensure the coordination and the follow up of the activities of this commission, it was decided to start the second phase.

The purpose of the second phase is to accelerate the operationalization of the said commission through:

- The re - launching of the activities of several operational impediments already created, like the Fund for the Green Business in Central Africa;
- The implementation of the impediments under creation like the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin in Central Africa and East Africa;
- The creation of new impediments or the launching of new activities to be integrated in the system of the fight against the existing changes.

Then it was therefore decided to discuss a global action plan of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin of the African Union. To achieve this and to discuss this, among all the States involved, the Republic of Congo decided through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, to organize the Conference of the Ministers of Environment of ECCAS and the EAC, on the acceleration of the operationalization of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin, the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin, and the Green Business Fund in Central Africa as well as the common position of States to the COP 23.

3. Reminders of the challenges of COP 23

Likely to the first two, the challenges of COP 23 are many and plural disciplinary (political, diplomatic, institutional, technical, and financial) aimed at accelerating the operationalization of the Paris Agreement the coming into effect of which is planned for after 2020. Generally speaking, the negotiators will approach the operationalization of the following tools:

The work group on the Paris Agreement (APA) the subsidiary organ of the scientific and technological Council (SBSTA) the subsidiary organ of implementation (SBI) the Conference of Parties acting as the meeting of parties of the Paris Agreement (CMA) and the Conference of Parties acting as the meeting of parties for the Kyoto Protocol.

4. Political Framing of the Conference

First and foremost, this conference will be placed under the High Patronage of **His Excellency Mr. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, President of the Republic, Head of State, and President of the Climate commission for the Congo Basin.

Looking at the challenges of the COP 23, the organization of the conference of Brazzaville is in line with the framework of the implementation:

- Of the political will of the ECCAS member states to organize a preparatory conference before the holding of every COP to adopt a common position. The first preparatory meeting was organized in September 2009 at Kinshasa during the preparation of COP 15 held at Copenhagen in December 2009.

- Of the several political impediments at the following sub regional, continental, and international level:
 - ✓ Decision No 27/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 may 2015 about the creation of the green business in Central Africa
 - ✓ Decision No /CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 may 2015 about the adoption of the roadmap for the operationalization of the Fund for the green economy in Central Africa
 - ✓ Decision No 35/CCEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 may 2015 about the adoption of sectorial programs for the development of the green economy

- The memorandum of understanding for the creation of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin signed by the ECCAS member states and the East Africa Community
- The Paris Agreement
- The Declaration of the Summit of African Heads of States and Government of the Action in favor of the co – emergence of the continent
- The final Communiqué of the 28th ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of States and Government of the African Union (AU) organized from 30 to 31 January 2017
- The Action Plan of Marrakech
- The implementation of the Agenda 2063
- The sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030
- The final Communiqué of the Conference of African Ministers of Environment organized in Libreville from 12 to 16 June 2017.

5. Objectives

The general objective of the Conference is the acceleration of the operationalization of the Commission of the Congo Basin through that of several impediments (institutional, technical, and financial) already put in place in the states of both RECs for the fight against the successful changes.

These actions must concern the implementation of the National Determined Contributions (NDC) through the technical tools represented by the projects and programs as well as other impediments (institutional, financial etc.)

They must also be compatible with the expectations of States and the stakeholders of the two RECs in order to achieve (i) the economic development of states (ii) the

diversification of their economies (iii) the development of enterprises (iv) the creation of jobs (v) the living conditions improvement of the populations (vi) the development of the African and regional integration, the development of the Cooperation ECCAS – EAC paving the way to the cooperation inter REC expected by the AU to speed up the structural transformation of the economy of the continent.

In a specific way, it is worth adopting:

- The Declaration of ECCAS – EAC Ministers on the acceleration of the operationalization of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin and the Adoption of a common position of the States face to COP 23
- The draft decision about the creation of the Blue Fund of the Congo Basin and the institutionalization of the Conference of the Ministers of ECCAS and EAC about the Blue Fund
- The sectorial projects and programs for the development of the blue economy
- The updated list of sectorial programs for the development of the green business in Central Africa
- The Agenda of joint activities of the ECCAS – EAC countries for the COP 23
- The roadmap 2017 – 2018 about the acceleration of the operationalization of the institutional, technical and financial impediments among which the Blue Fund – the Green Business – the Experts group of Central Africa about the climate change, the application center of the weather forecast in Central Africa
- The draft decision about the creation of the Excellence Center of Research, Training and Innovation on the Blue Fund to be integrated in an existing unit in East Africa
- The draft decision about the creation of an Excellence Center of Research, Training and Innovation on the Green economy to be integrated in an existing unit in central Africa
- The draft budget aimed at the functioning unit of the joint starting Unit of the Blue Fund of the Congo Basin and the green economy Fund in Central Africa.

6. Intended Results

The intended results of the Conference are as follows:

- The Declaration of ECCAS – EAC Ministers on the acceleration of the operationalization of the Congo Basin Commission in line with the common position of the states for the COP 23 is adopted
- The draft decision about the creation of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin and the institutionalization of the Conference of ECCAS and EAC ministers about the Blue Fund is adopted

- The sectorial projects and the programs for the development of the Blue economy are adopted
- The agenda of the joint activities of the ECCAS and EAC countries for the COP 23 is adopted
- The draft decision for the creation of the Excellence Center of Research, training and Innovation about the Blue Fund to integrate in an existing unit in East Africa is adopted
- The Excellence Center of Research, Training and Innovation for the Green Fund to integrate in an existing unit in Central Africa is adopted
- The draft work Plan and the annual budget aimed at the functioning of the starting unit jointly for the Blue Fund, the Green Fund is adopted
- The impediments of the organization and the functioning of the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin and the Roadmap 2017 – 2018 for the acceleration of the Operationalization are adopted.

7. Conference Proceedings

Under the High Patronage of **His Excellency Mr. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO** President of the Republic of Congo, Head of State, the proceedings of the Conference will take place in three days scheduled in two segments: the experts sequence and the ministerial sequence.

8. Participants

Are expected to attend:

- The Ministers in charge of the Environment/ Forestry of the ECCAS member states
- The Ministers in charge of the Environment/ Forestry of the EAC member states
- The ECCAS Secretary General
- The EAC Secretary General
- The AU Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, and Rural Development
- The Coordination of the Committee of the Heads of States and Government on the climate change
- The Representatives of the African Group of Negotiators
- The Presidency of the African Ministers Conference on Environment – AMCE
- The President of COP 22
- The Representatives of the Specialized Organizations of ECCAS (ECCAS, COREP, PEAC)
- The Representatives of the Sub Regional Organizations of Central Africa (CEFDHAC, RAPAC, CICOS, CBLT, REPAR etc.)
- The Representatives of the Sub Regional Organizations of East Africa such as ALT – Authority of Lake Tanganyika.
- The President of the Development Bank of Central Africa States – BDEAC -

- The Representative of the World Bank
- The Experts of the Ministries in charge of the issues of Environment/ Forestry and those in charge of Finance
- The Professional Organizations, the Researchers, the Resource Persons
- The Technical and Financial Partners (AFD, UNDP, FAO, JICA, GIZ, UNO, Environment etc.)
- The NGOs, the Experts, and the Media.