



ACP Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP20)

Secretary General's Welcoming Remarks

**ACP House, Brussels
Tuesday, 28th October 2014**

Excellencies,

Ambassadors and Representatives of ACP Embassies and Missions,

His Excellency Mr. Frédéric Assomption KORSAGA, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development,

His Excellency Mr. Tine LEUELU, Ambassador of Tuvalu,

His Excellency Mr. Patrick GOMES, Ambassador of Guyana,

Representatives of the European Commission,

Representatives of International Organisations,

Representatives of ACP Regional Organizations and Partners,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, let me welcome you to the ACP Secretariat and to the ACP Consultative Meeting in preparation for the 20th session of the Conference of the

Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place from 1 to 12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru.

This meeting has been organised by the Intra-ACP GCCA Programme, an innovative Programme that strongly focuses on improving the understanding of the effects of climate change and contributing to adaptation and mitigation responses in ACP countries, complementing and strengthening existing efforts to tackle climate change in these countries.

The main objective of today's meeting is to agree on an ACP Position Paper for COP20 which could be used by delegations of the ACP Member States in Lima during the negotiations.

As you are all aware, there are a number of important issues to be decided upon in Lima, related to, *inter alia*, Adaptation, Mitigation, Loss and Damage, Finance, REDD-plus, Technology Development and Transfer and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the main intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and as developed and developing countries frustratingly attempt to fulfil the mandate of the ADP by COP 21 in Paris, we have to recognise that many nations around the world will not commit to ambitious global emissions targets unless the agreed outcome ensures continued growth and prosperity for their economies.

The “Road to Paris” will no doubt be a difficult one, and in an effort to generate momentum for a meaningful global agreement in 2015, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invited world leaders, from government, finance, business, and civil society to the UN Climate Summit 2014 on 23 September.

It is against this backdrop the ACP Group, calls for the outcome of the ADP to be balanced to ensure equitable treatment of adaptation and mitigation. It must provide adequate means of implementation, including finance,

technology development and transfer, and capacity building. In addition, it should also be flexible to enable broad participation and ensure contributions from all Parties, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Climate change still poses a serious immediate and long-term threat to ACP countries, and in particular Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Land locked Countries in Africa and the most recent scientific evidence shows the adverse impacts of climate change are happening faster and are more extreme than previously projected.

In this regard, adaptation to climate change is an immediate and urgent priority for ACP Member States and thus must be addressed in a comprehensive manner at the global level.

The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was a welcomed decision and we encourage the Executive Committee to expedite its work to ensure that

the mechanism becomes fully functional as soon as possible in order to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change in developing countries.

The issue of climate finance is of critical to achieving a successful 2015 agreement and this would only be achieved if Annex 1 Parties provides new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources, to fulfil the pledge to mobilize jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020, in order to meet the needs of non-Annex I parties to tackle climate change and its adverse effects.

Technology development and transfer is essential for developing countries to mitigate against and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. In this regard, the Technology Mechanism has a vital role to play in facilitating the removal of the potential barriers to Technology Transfer for ACP Member States.

The ACP supports the integration of REDD+ into the 2015 agreement and is prepared to provide technical support to ACP countries for REDD+ activities, and in particular for the REDD+ Readiness phase.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

In concluding, the Intra-ACP GCCA Programme will continue its support to build the capacity of ACP negotiators to ensure that the outcome of the ADP in 2015 is a legally-binding agreement that reduces green house gas emissions to a level that gives us a likely chance of holding temperature rise to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

In addition, the ACP Secretariat will continue to work very closely with our partners from the European Commission, to provide support to its Member States, for the implementation of the outcome of the ADP as well as any other future climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, I wish you an informative, interactive and a successful Consultative Meeting and look forward to reading the draft ACP position paper for the Lima Climate Change Conference.

I thank you for your kind attention.