



Special Meeting of the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development on COP22 Outcomes and Roadmap to COP 23

**Remarks by the Chair of the Subcommittee on
Sustainable Development**

H.E. Mr. Johnson Weru

**ACP House, Brussels
Tuesday, 14th March 2017**

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives of ACP Embassies and Missions,

Representatives of the European Commission,

Representatives of International Organisations,

Representatives of ACP Regional Organizations and Partners,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I join the Secretary General in welcoming you to the ACP House for the Special meeting of the Sub-committee on Sustainable Development to discuss the outcomes of the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) and the way forward to COP 23.

In their *Marrakesh Action Proclamation for our Climate and Sustainable Development*, Heads of State and Governments in Marrakesh sent a strong signal of their commitment to implement the Paris Agreement. They stressed the importance of building on the momentum generated in Paris, in order to reduce green house gas emissions and foster adaptation efforts, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Much is still at stake. As you know, several ACP Countries count among countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. These include our Small Island Developing States, Least Developing Countries and landlocked countries in Africa. Building resilience to climate change and strengthening our adaptive capacity is thus a priority for our countries.

Excellencies,

The early entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4th November 2016 marks a historic moment to the commitment to an ambitious, legally binding and universal agreement aiming to strengthen the global response to the negative impacts of climate change.

However, this early entry into force of the Paris Agreement accentuates the need for accelerating the work programme under the Paris Agreement and the development of the rule book that is needed to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement in 2020. All Parties would have the opportunity to participate in the process of the development of the rule book for the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the preparations for the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 will take place this year. This will assess the progress towards reaching the long-term temperature goal, which would also inform the preparations of nationally determined contributions (NDCs). I therefore encourage all our

Member States to actively participate in these processes to ensure effective representation of the ACP Group in the discussions.

Excellencies,

The Fiji Presidency of the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) taking place in Bonn, Germany in November 2017, provides a special opportunity for the ACP Group to work closely with the COP 23 Presidency to demonstrate political engagement and leadership and uphold the ambition, momentum and cohesiveness generated in Paris, and later emphasized by world leaders in Marrakesh.

As one of the largest groupings of developing countries, the ACP Group has a unique role to play in ensuring that issues affecting countries most vulnerable to climate change will be given adequate focus leading up to and at the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) on 6 – 17 November 2017, in order to contribute to reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience and adaptive capacities in these countries.

A number of outstanding issues remain. These include but are not limited to: securing accessible, adequate, additional funding for adaptation specifically for the most vulnerable countries, but also strengthening capacity, technology development and transfer.

The outcomes of our discussions during these two days will highlight the outstanding issues from COP 22 and identify pertinent issues for the ACP Group in preparations for COP 23 and in implementing the Paris Agreement, clearly outlining the role of the ACP Group.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I wish you successful deliberations.

I thank you for your kind attention.