

IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

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Theme: “Youth Leading the way, leaving no
one behind”

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OUTLINE

- What are planetary boundaries
- Challenges of climate change on youths
- Coping mechanisms/initiatives
- National Policies and strategies
- The Agenda 2030 of SDGs (role of young people)
- IPU (Parliamentarian Action Plan on climate change)
- Recommendations

planetary boundaries

- Ozone layer, oceans, atmosphere, water, land,
- The states of the world have agreed to a new international climate change agreement in Paris. They agreed to limit global warming “well below 2 °C” and undertake efforts to limit it even to 1.5 °C.

Objective of the convention

Revisiting Article 2 of the UNFCCC

- “The **ultimate objective** of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, **stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere** at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient **to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.**”

Challenges of climate change on youths

- Migration by youths to safer places,
- Conflicts due to resource scarcity,
- School drop out,
- Low income at household level
- Unemployment and poverty increase
- Chronic illness due to exposure to pollution

Coping mechanisms/initiatives

1. Sustainable Agriculture

- Despite the importance of the agricultural sector to Africa development, the continent had a food import bill of over USD Billion in 2011 (excluding fish),
- The imports of food exceed export by 30%,
- Less than 10 countries have managed to achieve the Maputo Declaration goal of allocating 10% of budgetary resources to agric sector to achieving the 6% annual growth in agricultural GDP, while about 25% of African population (around 254 million persons) still have no enough food.

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- Additionally it is estimated that some 65% of the agricultural land in Africa is classified as degraded,
 - The AU agenda 2063 reconfirms that agriculture and food security is a critical priority where increased production, productivity and value addition should remain high on the development agenda of the continent,
 - With 65% of Africa's workforce directly dependant on agriculture for survival – and growing poverty and food insecurity according to the world bank – it is where the food is grown that should be the focus

Ecosystem based adaptation

- Ecosystem based adaptation driven agriculture offers a sustainable and growing sources of income that can just transform lives in the content,
- Enhancing ecosystem including soil could provide the most feasible pathway to enhance food security and job creation for the increasingly youthful population under the changing climate, currently at 225 million and raising to 400 million by 2040.
- Ecosystem based adaptation driven agriculture and building climate resilience could unleash the hidden economic assets that can spiral growth, improve food and nutrition security, and create employment to unprecedented levels,

- Africa faces a myriad of challenges to achieving economic development and attainment of the 2015 SDGs. Climate change, population growth, youth bulge, widespread unemployment, extreme poverty and hunger,
- Income and poverty reduction evidence from the world bank shows that in africa, a 10% increase in yield crops translates to approximately a 7% in poverty,
- Agriculture is not only the source of food but of livelihood, employing up to 65% of labour in the continent, the majority being small holder at 65%

- Agriculture is the major source of life in Africa and key to poverty alleviation and food security, growth in the sector reduces poverty by about 3 times as much as growth in other sectors,
- Agriculture typically represents 30-40 % of GDP in Africa and employs up to 65% of the labour force, providing livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers,
- Africa is a home to more than 225 million undernourished people, it also has a highest rate of stunting 40% (FAO 2014),
- Effects of climate change will strongly reduce their chances of escaping poverty.

Reducing GHG through CSA

- Agriculture and agriculture driven land use produce significant green house gas emissions (24% of the global total emissions [IPCC 2014]), however they can also become of the solution ,
- CSA practices such as agro-forestry and improved livestock and pasture management can reduce emissions and remove carbon out of the atmosphere,
- African agriculture must strive to attain a tripple win: dramatically increasing productivity, enhancing the resilience of farming systems and achieving low emissions,

Cont”

- African agricultural and livestock systems are extremely vulnerable to climate change, drought, heat, extreme events, changes in water availability, disease and pest infestations as complex impacts, reduce yields and increase the rate of animal death,
- falling yields come at a time when population growth and increasing incomes will require African Agricultural systems to almost tripple overall production:

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- Doing so in a business as usual scenario would tripplle agriculture and land use related emissions and threatening achievement of the 2 degrees Celsius goal,
 - CSA investment plans, projects and policies can help address these challenges and increase production, enhance resilience, and reduce emissions. This can be achieved with the help of low carbon agricultural production systems, Africa could tripplle food production while controlling emissions.

Low carbon initiatives in CSA

- High efficiency, low carbon irrigation systems – could reduce drought stress enabling higher production and lower losses as a result of natural disasters and improving energy efficiency,
- Scaling up agro-forestry – would dramatically reduce fertilizer use and capture carbon in trees and soils
- Conservation agriculture techniques would protect soil from wind and erosion,
- Weather information and early warning systems would enable a farmer to take better decisions, reducing risks and protecting yields in uncertain climate and weather conditions

National policies

- National Climate change policy,
- Environmental policy,
- Forestry policy,
- Water resources management policy
- Youth policy and employment strategies,
- REDD+ strategies

Mitigation Technologies

- Low carbon emission agriculture technologies – conservation tillage, green manure and cover crops for soil improvement, control of weeds,
- Bio-fuels technologies – biodiesel, biofuel from sugar cane,
- Sustainable charcoal production – brick kiln, metal kiln, etc
- Energy efficiency technologies – energy mgt systems, household end use, energy efficiency,
- Improved cooking and heating and lighting devices,
- Land use change forestry technologies – afforestation, reforestation, improved firewood stoves,
- Off grid – small hydros, biomass gas fire, bio gas digester, small wind turbine and solar energy etc,

SDGs

Implementing the agenda 2030 will ensue

- Coherence, Coordination, and integration in our approaches and strategies to achieve the goals,
- We need on going conversations and strong collaboration among all relevant stakeholders,
- SDGs must be aligned to national circumstances and priorities as stipulated in development plans and strategies
- In the face of climate change effect/impacts SDGs can not be achieved,

IPU Outcome document COP21

Outcome 21

- We express the wish that the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka should adopt a Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change. The 22nd session of the COP to be held in Morocco in 2016 will provide an opportunity to take stock of the mobilisation role of parliaments in the fight against climate change. Cooperation should be developed between the IPU and the competent UN bodies to ensure follow up of the Paris agreement

SDG goals 1 and 2

- **End poverty**- in all its form

1.1

- By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2

- By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- **End hunger**, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

2.1

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Conclusion

- Start engaging youths in your constituencies,
- Promote local based participatory approaches,
- Provide incentives to encourage more youths to join the movement,
- Form Climate youths champions,
- Promote local based natural resources management programmes
- Conduct research
- Promote exchange visits among youth groups e.g. North – South visits,

FIN

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