



**Africa Carbon Forum  
Windhoek, 2-4 July 2014**

**Statement by  
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UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn, Germany**

Honorable Minister,  
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I bring you greetings from our Executive Secretary, Ms. Christiana Figueres. She asked me convey her thanks to the Government of Namibia for hosting this year's Africa Carbon Forum. I would also like to thank our partners and co-organizers – the African Development Bank, UNEP and UNEP Risoe, the World Bank Group, IETA as well as UNCTAD for their support – for making this event possible.

This Africa Carbon Forum takes place at a very important juncture in the international negotiation process. Last November in Warsaw, governments agreed to determine their national contributions to the new, universal climate agreement slated for 2015. At the recent Bonn Climate Talks in June, governments worked constructively and positively. Those talks culminated in Parties asking that the elements of a draft treaty be made available in July, in advance of the next round of talks in October. And in September, the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit will take place.

Hence, governments are clearly thinking about what they're going to contribute, and how ambitious they can afford to be. It is no coincidence to see concrete actions being showcased at these international negotiation sessions. This year, the ADP negotiating track has held Technical Expert Meetings. In March, examples of climate change action were presented in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Last month, examples of action in urban areas and action in land use were presented. All of this is with a view to informing governments of concrete actions that can be replicated and even scaled up to contribute towards a greater level of ambition. Therefore, it is appropriate that this ACF 2014 gathering here in Namibia provides opportunity for representative of governments, civil society and business and industry to consider what is needed to achieve the most ambitious deal in Paris.

Markets play an important role in engaging private sector investment and entrepreneurial mitigation. And, since we are moving from a world where markets concerned a limited group of countries under the Kyoto Protocol, to a world where markets are the preferred policy choice for countries, regions and organizations to curb emissions, Africa needs to enter the play vigorously and without delay.

This Africa Carbon Forum is therefore of the essence.

As the UN's top climate change official, and my boss, Christiana Figueres, said last month at the Carbon Expo in Cologne, what we need are market instruments to support an ambitious climate agreement AND an agreement that supports coherent and effective use of markets. This makes for an inclusive agreement that offers flexibility, where different approaches provide options for all stakeholders to participate effectively. African countries need to ensure that such flexibility includes solutions that are applicable to the African region.

This requires that we showcase, through this ACF, actions that represent concrete evidence of business models that are compatible with a low-carbon and highly resilient economy.

One of the key messages at this year's African Carbon Forum should be that pursuit of much needed development is not incompatible with a move towards a low-carbon economy. Hence Africa should support a Paris agreement that provides a framework and clear signal for a stable and substantial global price on Carbon.

A global carbon price will obviously penalize high-emitting entities. And if it costs more to emit, low-carbon options will eventually win out. It is a real chance for the continent to enhance its growth, because a carbon price will mobilize substantial private sector investment to these low-carbon options, helping to place Africa on a clean path to development.

Some of the groundwork has already been laid – in the form of capacity and experience with the clean development mechanism. It is a shame that just as Africa is starting to enjoy the benefits of the CDM, the price of carbon has declined. Still, the CDM has shown what is possible, and, despite the low price paid for certified emission reductions, there are real opportunities worth exploring.

Imagine what will happen when countries take on the level of ambition that the science tells us is needed, and this ambition is translated into demand for emission reductions. African countries will want to be ready for that, and should be working hard to make sure that comes to pass in Paris in 2015.

By the time the Paris agreement comes into force in 2020, the cost of greenhouse gas emissions must simply be a part of the cost of doing business.

I know many of you, here today, see carbon markets or private investment in clean energy as part of the answer to climate change, otherwise you would not have come all the way to Windhoek to participate in this forum. Therefore, make use of these three days to help the governments represented here realize that a meaningful global deal is one that incorporates and recognizes the value and innovation of business.

If ACF 2014 contributes to the meaningful dialogue among stakeholders represented here on the essentials of an effective climate agreement in Paris, then the efforts of the Nairobi Framework Partners and our host, the government of Namibia, in putting this together would have been worthwhile.

With Africa's clean development, and growth opportunities on the road to 2020, foremost in mind, I wish you a fruitful and innovative Africa Carbon Forum.

Thank you.

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