

## Uganda's private sector commits to climate change mitigation



*Participants at the workshop*

On 8th May 2015, Representatives of Uganda's private sector signed a declaration as a commitment to reduce carbon emissions. This was at the end of a two-day workshop convened by the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Makerere University Private Sector Forum from at the Commonwealth Resort, Munyonyo in Kampala.



*Dr John Hawkins Asiedu, the Minister Counselor and Commercial at Ghana's Embassy in Turkey shared Ghana's experience in involving the private sector*

The workshop initiated a public-private dialogue and explored opportunities for private sector engagement and financing in climate change mitigation activities.

It brought together over 100 private sector representatives, technical experts, policy makers and agencies supporting greenhouse gas mitigation actions.



*Dr. Kala Flemming from IBM Research Africa delivers a presentation on Attracting Private Sector to Climate Change Mitigation Actions*

Speaking at the workshop, the UNDP Country Director, who was represented by the Assistant Country Director, Ms. Patience Lily Alidri, reiterated the importance of the private sector in climate change mitigation.

“The Private Sector can no longer afford to remain on the sidelines. Your partnership is essential in reducing emissions and adopting a green growth development” path, she said.

### **Climate change, a development challenge in Uganda**

Climate change mitigation is important in Uganda’s context as a contributor to the sustainable development of the country



*A Member of Parliament signing an artistic impression of the declaration. The workshop called for a vibrant public private partnership (PPP) in addressing climate change*

Climate change effects such as floods, prolonged droughts and landslides are already affecting the livelihoods of millions of people. This is compounded by the growing industrialization and business enterprises that are polluting the environment.

Under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex I), to which Uganda is signatory, developed countries agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through the Kyoto mechanisms such as emissions trading, Clean Development Mechanism and joint implementation.

Resultantly, the National Development Plan (NDP) emphasizes among the strategic objectives under climate change, the need to promote the low carbon development pathway for the country and climate-proof the country's national development.

### **The private sector, important allies in climate change mitigation**



*Group discussions on challenges and opportunities of climate change mitigation*

Although Uganda's private sector is one of the biggest emitters of carbon, little has been done to rally them to engage in or finance climate change mitigation actions.

The workshop therefore discussed many ways of engagement, including undertaking investment and technological innovations that strengthen low carbon growth, financing climate change mitigation measures, adopting lower carbon production processes, and encouraging and facilitating more climate conscious purchasing decisions by consumers.

In a speech read for him by the Minister of State for Environment, Ms Flavia Munaba Nabugera, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Honorable, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda said climate change financing needs of Government are enormous and public sector alone can not sufficiently carry the burden of low-carbon development.



*Dr Samuel Sejjaaka, Chairman Board of Directors Uganda Development Bank signs the declaration*

“This means that the largest share of additional investment would have to come from the private sector, which is already responsible for the largest share of climate financing globally through the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)”, he said.

In his keynote address delivered by the Executive Director for Uganda Industrial Research Institute Mr. Charles Mwesigwa, the Governor Bank of Uganda, Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile challenged financial institutions to embrace climate change mitigation.



*Participants at the workshop*

“We welcome and support those private financial institutions that are taking enhanced actions to align their activities to low-carbon growth strategies. They are playing a key role in mobilizing private capital, necessary to achieve transformation to a low-carbon economy”, he said.

Mr. Mutebile called for the establishment a Climate Investment Fund, which would complement existing bilateral and multilateral efforts.

“These funds will scale up public and private finance for the deployment of clean technologies, the prevention of deforestation and development of climate resilient economies in developing countries”, he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Chebet Maikut, the Commissioner for Water and Environment and the national focal point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) warned that businesses would be impacted by climate change, whether via their core operations, their supply chains, changes in customer demand, or larger macroeconomic shocks.

“Therefore, it is time for the private sector to think carefully about what climate change may mean for their companies and to embrace climate change mitigation”, he said.



*Group discussions focusing on opportunities and challenges of climate change mitigation*

Representatives of the private sector appreciated the workshop for not only creating awareness but also a platform for sharing information on funding opportunities and Clean Development Mechanisms in climate change mitigation.

“The private sector should not only look at climate change mitigation as a cost of production. There are business opportunities such as marine transport, recycling, renewable energy, gas production and water treatment, said Ismail Muwanga, the Executive Director of Luuka Plastics, a local plastics manufacturing company.



Signing a declaration is one positive step towards achieving sustainable development and reducing carbon emissions by the private sector. However, challenges such as competitiveness of low-carbon investment, uncertainty in many forms, including actions by competitors, customer preferences and absence a clear policy regulatory framework may still affect their operations.

*Members of Uganda's private sector sign the declaration*

Like Dr John-Hawkins Asiedu, Minister Counselor and Commercial at Ghana Embassy in Turkey who also shared Ghana's experience in engaging the private in climate change mitigation advised, the first step is to cultivate an active and vibrant public-private partnership (PPP) that will participate in policy formulation to guide the process.

The workshop was organized under the auspices of the UNDP supported Low Emissions Capacity Building (LECB) project, being implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment – Climate Change Department in collaboration with Makerere University Private Sector Forum.



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*Participants at the workshop*



*The Executive Director of Uganda's Industrial Research Institute Mr. Charles Mwesigwa signs the declaration*



*Hon. Flavia Munaba Nabugere, Minister of State for Environment, signs the declaration*



*Members of Uganda's private sector sign the declaration*