

18th Conference of Parties on Climate Change
Doha (QATAR) - 7 December 2012

*Address by Mr. Christian Adovelande, Chairman, West African Development Bank
(BOAD)*

Mister Chairman,

Madam Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I seize this opportunity to thank and congratulate Qatari Authorities,
the UNFCCC Executive Secretariat and negotiators for the smooth
running of this world event.

In its last report issued in 2007, IPCC¹ confirmed that in the 21st century,
climate change in Africa will be marked by an increase in average
temperature up to 1.5 times higher than global level, and a decrease in
rainfall by over 20-30% compared to 1961-1990 reference level.

The implications of the climate change already felt in the member
countries of the West African Development Bank (BOAD), include,
among other things : i) recurrent floods and droughts ; ii) loss of
farmlands ; iii) decreased agricultural yields ; iv) decreased available
water reserves ; v) reduced hydroelectric power generation potential;
vi) worrying rise in sea level ; vii) rural drift and relocation of human
settlements ; in short, disintegration of the economic and social fabric,
thereby contributing to pull down growth projections in the region.

To provide an adequate response to such effects, contribute to build up
resilience for communities vulnerable to climate change and reduced
greenhouse gas emissions as part of poverty reduction, BOAD supports
the development and financing of mitigation and adaptation projects in
areas such as agriculture, water management, electric power, renewable
energies, and forestry in accordance with the Bali Action Plan.

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In order to strengthen these initiatives, the Bank was accredited with the Climate Change Adaptation Fund as the 1st Regional Implementing Entity and has initiated the second phase for its accreditation with GEF. Its Chairman participates in the proceedings of the Green Climate Fund as a member of the Board of Directors. In April 2012, the Bank launched, with the support of other partners, its first African Carbon Fund, to which it contributed an amount of €15 million. Moreso, BOAD will host as from January 2013 the first Regional Centre for Cooperation on CDM.

Mister Chairman,

I wish to express special appreciation for all initiatives embarked upon during this 18th Conference of Parties to avoid a post-Kyoto legal vacuum, and beyond, reaffirm the need to strengthen mechanisms dealing with mitigation, adaptation, technology, capacity building and operationalisation of Green Climate Fund.

For its part, the Bank will continue to work with a growing commitment and hand in hand with member countries to address climate change challenges. I therefore appeal to all Parties to the Convention and all organizations interested in providing support, to join BOAD in its initiatives aimed at operationalising the mechanisms under the Convention and its Protocol within the WAEMU zone.

Thank you.