

**ACMAD's Statement at Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and High level segment of COP 25**

**December 2019**

**Title: Towards full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement: ACMAD's perspective**

Your Excellency Ms Carolina Zalvidar Schmidt President of COP 25

Miss Patricia Espanola, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC

Excellencies Heads of States,

Honorable Heads of delegations

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Members of the Media,

On behalf of the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government and people of Chile and Spain for their cooperation and generosity in hosting this year's COP.

ACMAD was established following the resolution 540 in 1985 of the Conference of Ministers of Economy, finance and development planning of UNECA following the severe droughts of the 1970s and 80s in Africa characterized by nearly a halt of Niger river flow in parts of the basin.

The centre is more than ever determined to leverage on the strengths of partnerships to serve member states supporting resilience to disasters and adaptation to climate change across Africa helping to realize the AU agenda 2063 "The Africa we want".

Therefore the centre is at the heart of efforts to build resilience to extreme weather/climate and reduce impacts of climate change on Africa's development initiatives as enshrined into the Paris Agreement.

As a **threat multiplier climate change** is exacerbating vulnerability. Examples of the 2015 drought over southern Africa with one of the most important hydropower plants of the region (Kariba dam) ceasing operations leaving some countries short of electricity. More recently cyclone Idai impacted significantly Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

ACMAD monitors African weather and climate, provides advisories and watches information as well as climate scenarios for impacts assessments, planning and action on resilience and adaptation. It develops and adapts methodologies, tools and products to **anticipate on the occurrence of high impact weather or climate events hours up to a season ahead therefore contribution to technology transfer and capacity development as required by the Paris accord.**

As an example, its assessment so far has identified **2019 among the top 3 warmest years in the record since 1950 over Africa. Based on temperature records since 1950, the warming rate moved from 2oC per century between 1950 and now to above 3oC per century from the 90s to current.**

The centre's weather and climate monitoring and forecasts products provides advisories and watches for heavy rains , late onset of the rainy seasons, early cessation of the rains, abnormally high and low seasonal rains. Floods, droughts, disruptions of hydropower production and distribution, mud and landslides leading to substantial losses and damages are recorded across Africa every year costing up to 2% of countries GDP.

Given the complexity of the climate change resilience and adaptation challenge, impacts/vulnerability/risk assessments, advisories/watches/warnings, communication, preparation, adaptation, resilience, development and response plans and actions should be integrated to effectively deliver results.

From Facts we have articulated the vision for our planet, let us now bring about this vision enshrined in the SDGs, Paris Agreement and other accords.

Declarations of droughts, floods emergencies or disasters are still provided post events and most interventions are post disaster responses.

The African Union through the African Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, ACMAD, ARC, UNDRR regional Office for Africa and The African Development Bank are building the ecosystem of institutions essential to holistically build effective resilience and adaptation across the continent.

STATEMENT By Dr. Andre KAMGA FOAMOUHOUE - Director General ACMAD