

## Africa Climate Week (Uganda, March 2020) –

### **“Partnering for transformation towards a low-carbon climate resilient and prosperous Africa: Managing Climate Risks, Seizing Transformation Opportunities.”**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

#### Background

- The world is in a climate emergency. 2020 is a key year in which the international community must complete the unfinished tasks from 2019 at a government level and mobilize far more action from non-State actors.
- Climate change is an imminent threat to the wellbeing and development of individuals, communities and the ecosystems which sustain them. Dealing with this threat is urgent, and extensive collaboration is required to address the threat.
- The climate emergency is a growing threat particularly to the most vulnerable, and particularly threat to the long-term health, safety and prosperity of people in Africans.
- With the window of opportunity to address climate change rapidly closing, the need for solutions, at the global and regional level have never been more urgent.
- At the same time, many African economies are growing fast, along with rapidly expanding populations. Now is the opportunity to green these growing economies, and to put them on a sustainable path.
- In 2020, leaders have a unique opportunity to reflect on the multitude of global voices for much more climate ambition and to take action at international and regional meetings such as Africa Climate Week.

#### Purpose

- Africa Climate Week is an opportunity to move forward on crucial climate action work at a national and regional level, taking regional priorities into consideration.
- The central objective of Africa Climate Week is to share ways for governments to implement the Paris Agreement in Africa, making use of all the planning tools and support available under the Paris Agreement.
- In the context of this urgency, Africa Climate Week is taking place under the banner of ***“Partnering for transformation towards a low-carbon climate resilient and prosperous Africa: managing risks, seizing opportunities.”***
- Africa Climate Week 2020 is inclusive and open to all stakeholders, as a ‘go-to’ hub to build partnerships and to showcase groundbreaking action in the region.
- The event is designed to mobilize and enhance the required **partnerships and collaborative approaches**, including:
  - the urgent need to understand the **risks and impacts of climate change** and integrate this knowledge in planning at all levels and in all sectors;
  - the urgency of **delivering on existing commitments**; and
  - the urgency of **giving all stakeholders clarity on the pathways and means of implementation for achieving carbon neutrality by mid-century** and thus the objectives and long-term goals of the Convention and Paris Agreement

#### Focus Areas

The Africa Climate Week aims to enhance the engagement of the private sector in implementation and delivery of national climate action plans under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs). The Africa Climate Week aims to achieve this across three core tracks

1. **Partnering for whole society engagement in implementation** This track will demystify the various provisions of the UNFCCC and turning them into tangible/actionable items for actors in the regions. This track will also enable an assessment of the best practice in society-wide and economy-wide approaches to cutting greenhouse gases and building resilience. These events will also generate groundswell momentum for timely implementation of the **commitments made under the UNFCCC processes, including the provisions of the enhanced transparency framework.**
2. **Managing climate risks** This track will allow deeper collaboration between all actors on scoping the extent of the climate risks faced in Africa across the dimensions of hazards faced, sectors impacted and a levels of governance involved. Events will focus on the development of solutions for and enhanced partnerships related to these risks. For Africa Climate Week 2020 this track will focus on **water and food security** and in this context address topics related to **ecosystems and nature-based solutions and resilient infrastructure development.**
3. **Seizing transformation opportunities** This track will provide a platform explore solutions to deliver climate action and support at a scale that puts the region on a low-emission development pathway. Related events under this focus area will provide a basis for partnership, engagement and capacity development on best practice policy, resource mobilization and technology development and deployment with a focus on **energy, infrastructure and mobility.**

Key partners of Africa Climate Week

- The meeting is being hosted by the Republic of Uganda. Key partners are the UNFCCC secretariat, the World Bank Group, the UN Development Programme, UN Environment, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union and the African Development Bank.