



## United Nations Climate Change Conference 6–16 June 2022, Bonn, Germany

### Week 1

#### 6 – 11 June 2022

Below, there is a short brief of the sessions I followed during the first week of the conference.

- **Monday 06/06 – 15:00 – 16:30**

- **The global food crisis: How can an Agriculture Breakthrough deliver for Africa?**

A very interesting topic that started with an introduction to the significant challenges that COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine pose to the global food security content. Agriculture is responsible for one third of global GHG emissions and it is a primary water user. The point for the agriculture breakthrough is to accelerate innovations and investments in agriculture to achieve a sustainable transition till 2030. It is important to know what to bring in COP27 in Africa next year. One of the significant contributions presented was the AICCRA with a research project on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security that is targeted to the following African countries: Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia. One of its objectives between 2021-2023 is to reach 1,500,000 farmers. To this direction the AICCRA Zambia Accelerator was mentioned and discussed.

- **Tuesday 07/06 – 13:15 – 14:45**

- **Developing country views on Road to COP27**

An introduction to the higher flexibility of developed countries to adapt to climate change was made pointing to the heavy burden falling to the developing world. The goal of COP27 should be achieving a new balance in the negotiation process for the developing countries. Considerable pressure exists to be able by 2030 to achieve real reduction of GHG to preserve the Paris Agreement. There should be initiatives in place containing a holistic approach: a social and economic dimension as well as environmental dimension. Of the crucial aspects are elements and challenges to be discussed for funding to the developing countries for the best implementation of solutions and the effective transition. Sources of financing need to be defined. Should developing countries take on more debt?

- **Wednesday 08/06 – 15:00 – 16:30**

- **How Accountability Mechanisms and Climate Justice can unlock climate finance and action?**

Initiatives that were developed need to be implemented and not just be good in the paper in order to achieve the goal of the Paris agreement. A presentation on an analysis of a sample of initiatives by taking into consideration members, targets, reduction potential and transparency, showed that transparency and accountability need to be enhanced. Another aspect of the discussion was the realization of increasing climate financing every year and that indigenous people should be involved from the beginning of such processes. A young UK activist presented a different picture of the one we are having so far in terms of what is being done by the public authorities on the climate change and adaptation financing.

- **Friday 10/06 – 15:00 – 16:30**

- **How ocean life and fisheries management impact the ocean's capacity to mitigate climate change**

The importance of coastal blue carbon for carbon sequestration was highlighted. Ocean management including fisheries can reduce direct carbon emissions (e.g., fuel use) and indirect emissions (e.g., overfishing). Another important aspect was the reference to whales and how they help mitigate climate change, by keeping carbon out of the atmosphere, fish and biodiversity are secured. A WWF report on “Restore Oceans” was mentioned with main key points: restore blue carbon habitats, manage effective networks of marine protected areas and manage all fisheries sustainably.

### **General thoughts and considerations**

The sessions I was able to attend have pointed to an urgent need of acting now and not stay only in the paper documents and discussions. Systemic and holistic approaches should be implemented in order to have the desired results. Many solutions are already there, but they should effectively be targeted towards a smooth sustainable transition process. Financing the green transition is a very crucial point and the contribution of both the public and the private sector is highly needed. Smart solutions should be also defined for developing nations as well. In their case, large-scale private sector engagement and investment is prerequisite to drive their transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. From marine to terrestrial ecosystems, sustainability is understood as a connected and interdependent nervous system for the planet, and to be able to prevent the further depletion of natural and physical resources what is recommended is the following: high level coordination and willingness to adapt to a new era, where the requirement will be to restore our planet for the future. Young generations will be catalytic to this process and this is the reason why deep level education, training and dissemination should take place, providing the right information that can change people's values and behaviors, encouraging them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.