

**Meeting with the African Ministers for Environment at UNEP,
Nairobi, 24 February 2005**

POST-KYOTO NEGOTIATIONS: AFRICAN PRIORITIES

- Negotiations on Post-Kyoto have begun in earnest
- **Central issue for Africa is Equity** in combating climate change
- **Kyoto Protocol lacks equity**
 - Favours polluters than non-polluters
 - Yet Africa is already experiencing climate change related impacts, e.g.:
 - Threat to food security
 - Increase in famines as a result of loss of livelihoods due to extreme and frequent droughts
 - Increase in vector-borne diseases such as malaria (for example in Kenya, malaria has spread from a low of 3 Districts in the 1980s to a high of 15 Districts in the 1990s), typhoid, cholera, etc, as a result of increase in wet conditions
 - Economic losses due to decreases in hydro-power generation
 - Infrastructure damages as associated with flooding
 - Decline in lakes, rivers; some streams have now become seasonal
 - Volume and extent of glaciers in some of the famous African mountains, e.g. Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya, etc, have shown drastic declining trends
- **Africa has previously proposed equity in 1997 during Kyoto Protocol negotiations which comprised the following:**
 - Global emissions allocations based on per capita basis
 - A globally agreed date for contraction (reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere) and convergence (equal sharing of environmental space per person) of emissions.
 - Trading of emissions based on entitlements
- **Why Trading?**
 - Trading is better than begging
 - Aid is dehumanising and humiliating
 - Independence in choice of urgent development priorities

- **Why Equity in Post-Kyoto?**

- Every human being is born equal and therefore must have equal environmental space – a global common resource
- Africa will suffer the most from the negative impacts of climate change (IPCC Second and Third Assessment Reports) despite being the least emitter of greenhouse gases, due to her underdeveloped status
- Damages associated with climate change are rising
- Deeper cuts in ghg emissions than as presently contained in the Kyoto Protocol urgently required in order to forestall further damages

- **Consequences of Inequitable Arrangements**

- Africa's development aspirations compromised
- Millennium Development Goals unmet
- NEPAD objectives compromised

- **Way Forward**

- Urgently involve the African Union, climate change negotiations and related disasters are beyond individual African governments
- Sub-regional Economic Groupings to also engage as a matter of priority
- Take cognisance of the fact that Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol and/or Post-Kyoto negotiations are not only environmental but mainly economic and political issues with serious implications and ramifications for Africa

- **Conclusion**

Africa to take the lead and be proactive with her noble position which apparently contains four major equity principles in the Climate Change Convention, namely:

- ❖ Equity principle
- ❖ Precautionary principle
- ❖ Polluter pays principle
- ❖ Differentiated responsibilities