



Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD)

Colloquium on

“Engaging stakeholders on Climate Change issues

(Municipality City Council of Port Louis, Mauritius, 08-10 October 2015)

COLLOQUIUM STATEMENT

The Climate Change Colloquium is an initiative of the Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD). It has been organized, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management (MOESDDBM), the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), the Municipal City Council of Port Louis, the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Aid Action, AHEAD, CLIMAGRI Ltd, Civil Society Forum (CSF) and Development Practitioners in Network (DPiN), to provide a forum for interaction and sharing of experience among the public and private sectors, academia, youth organisations, civil society and NGOs in a ‘bottom-up’ initiative ahead of the Paris UN Climate Change Conference in December 2015.

Nearly 100 participants attended the Conference. Keynote addresses were delivered by eminent personalities. The official Opening Ceremony was performed by Mr. Grish Gunraz Gunesh, Ag. Senior Chief Executive, representing the Hon. Raj Dayal, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, and Disasters and Beach Management (MOESDDBM) in the presence of Mr. Chris Loïc Dick, Acting Lord Mayor of the City of Port Louis; H.E Mrs Marjaana Sall, The Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and H.E Mr Laurent Garnier, The Ambassador of France to the Republic of Mauritius. A Video Message from Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) was conveyed during the ceremony. The opening was also addressed by Mr Soobaraj N. Sok Appadu, the President of ADD and Mr Subash Chacowry, the Honorary President of ADD.

Following the various high level presentations on relevant topics, the Colloquium expressed serious concern at the societal, economic and environmental impacts of climate change and associated accelerated sea level rise (SLR) threatening Mauritius and the low lying islands including Agaléga and St. Brandon with the possibility of complete submergence in case SLR is more than 1m. In addition, it called for special consideration to low income communities which are least resilient and have a low adaptive capacity as well as women who are affected differently from men.

The Colloquium recognised that several actions were being undertaken by public and private sectors and various institutions to build resilience against disasters, promote a low carbon energy system, enhance sensitisation and implement various adaptation and mitigation measures.

The Colloquium urged the authorities to associate NGOs and Civil Society so that they can pursue their efforts collectively to contribute to climate change education and awareness, protect the environment and implement the Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the 2015 UN General Assembly.

Specifically, the Colloquium recommends all parties concerned to:

- (i) Strengthen sensitisation campaigns to ensure that citizens are better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
- (ii) Adopt '*bottom-up*' approach in the identification of issues, on how they should be tackled and in ensuring the direct involvement of the communities and civil society in the process.
- (iii) Encourage all Ministries/institutions involved in formal and informal education and NGOs in informal education as well as in sensitization campaigns to adopt a common policy and platform for action.
- (iv) Ensure that research and academic institutions are more involved in climate change research, have greater access to data and are encouraged to publish their findings that would be more accessible to all stakeholders for effective action.
- (v) Avail of the expertise available locally especially among NGOs in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development programmes in a cost-effective manner.
- (vi) Contribute in taking concrete and effective measures particularly from the private sector, in collaboration with NGOs to reduce GHG emissions.

The Colloquium advocates that:

- (i) An agreement at Paris should be reached with targets and differentiated responsibilities to achieve a healthy Earth system.
- (ii) Developed countries should not only make firm pledges to provide financial assistance to developing countries but also provide them with assistance and support through transfer of technology and knowledge to build up their capacity to address climate change impacts;
- (iii) Firm commitments are made to complement the Green Climate Fund so as to reach the \$100bn a year by 2020 and beyond.
- (iv) The Funding mechanism hopefully to be adopted by COP21 should ensure that NGOs also benefit from the funds to empower them to participate more effectively in the formulation of national and regional policies and in their implementation.

The Colloquium welcomed ADD's commitment to follow the outcomes of the Paris Conference of relevance to NGOs in Mauritius and the region and to contribute to further reflection on the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDCs) and in its implementation.

We, the participants at the Colloquium, call upon Governments attending the Paris Conference to limit greenhouse gas emissions, so as to avoid continued global warming, and keep global temperature, preferably below the critical 1.5°C threshold by 2100 as endorsed by SIDS. In particular, we affirm our strong determination to work with all stakeholders and contribute to combat climate change and sea level rise.

Adopted by acclamation on 10 October 2015
The Municipal City Council of Port Louis
Mauritius