

**Abstract of Presentation to Second Committee on “Economic Impacts of Climate Change: Regional Perspectives” by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa**

Africa is widely acknowledged to be the most vulnerable region to the impact of climate although it contributes less than 4% of global emissions. The impact of climate change in Africa will be through higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and extreme climatic events such as droughts and floods.

The economic impact of climate change in Africa will cut across sectors including agricultural production, energy supplies, food security, health and shelter. Rain-fed agriculture contributes 30% of GDP in most African countries and employs up to 70% of the populace. The continent similarly relies on biomass for 80% of its energy needs while malaria previously unknown in high altitudes is spreading to such places.

It is estimated that a temperature increase of 2° Celsius could mean a loss of up to 5% of GDP in Africa mainly due to losses from agricultural production. A slightly higher increase of 2.5° Celsius may mean hunger for an addition 128 million people while sea-level rises impact negatively on property and investments in coastal cities with large populations. There are human security implications of migrations resulting from climate change which could spark conflicts and result in loss of production, property and lives.

Adapting to climate change will impose massive additional costs on African countries. The IPCC places the costs of adaptation to be at around 5% to 10% of GDP. Action is needed on mitigation to avoid going over the tipping point by restricting global warming to a minimum unavoidable level of no more than 2° Celsius. Therefore, global emissions targets to be agreed upon in Copenhagen need to be ambitious.

Following extensive regional consultations, African countries will be taking a common position at the climate change negotiations and will field one delegation to be led by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. ECA has been supporting African delegations in the area of climate change as well as in preparations for the climate change negotiations. It collaborated closely with the African Union Commission and African Development Bank to establish the Clim-Dev Africa programme which amongst other things aims to scale up the capacities of key institutions and stakeholders with a view to improving climate-related data and information services.

ECA also hosts the African Climate Policy Centre which is the policy arm of the Clim-Dev Africa programme. The ACPC plays a central role in guiding and facilitating, in collaboration with other partners the overall implementation of the Clim-Dev Africa programme.