

UNFCCC COP25 – GCCA+ Waste Side Event

How African Countries are Managing Waste and Delivering Public Health Benefits NDC Partnership Pavilion,
Madrid, Friday 6 December 2019

Name(s) of Notetakers: Monica Bonfanti

Facilitation: Monica Bonfanti, Mitigation Expert, GCCA+ Support Facility

Agenda:

1. Introduction to the GCCA+, **Mr Nicola di Pietrantonio, Program Manager, DEVCO**
2. How to conquer waste and reduce emissions- The case of Nigeria, **Dr Peter Tarfa, Director, Department of Climate change, Federal Ministry of Environment, NIGERIA**
3. An overview of Greater Monrovia's solid waste situation, **Mr Tolbert Kerkulah, Project coordinator, Cheesemanburg Landfill & Urban Sanitation project (CLUS) LIBERIA**
4. Projet de valorisation des déchets solides ménagers et de contribution à la lutte contre les changements climatiques dans le Zou, BENIN, **Mr Herman Padonou, PAAEDC- CoMSSA, Head of mission and project Coordinator, Department of Zou, BENIN**

1. Summary of **KEY ISSUES** presented and discussed:

- a) Mr Nicola di Pietrantonio on behalf of DG DEVCO highlighted the importance of the work developed by GCCA+ in some African states in the sector of waste, stressing work was still quite embryonic in the area but already results were being delivered. He clarified that waste management in Africa represents environmental, public health and business opportunities.
- b) Ms Bonfanti introduced Dr Tarfa and explained the GCCA+ waste management project represented a big challenge for Nigeria and DEVCO, as waste was not included in the NDC. Dr Tarfa noted that although waste management affects the environment but the health and the welfare of Nigerians, it is still perceived as strongly dependent on donor's support. He pointed out that regulations that would help to provide certainty for private sector operators were still under development and that the GCCA+ programme would soon commence. He said he hoped the private sector would take up the opportunities thus created. He also highlighted that increasing formal business opportunities to manage waste should generate new benefits for youth, including by reducing the informal market working with this sector. Finally, he stressed the **link between the work on waste management, the achievement of the sustainable development goals, more ambitious NDCs** and proper waste management as a way to create business opportunities for local SMEs, reducing, therefore, the poverty.
- c) The Moderator gave the floor to Mr Tolbert, from Liberia to share work done by GCCA+ in Liberia both at the national and local level. Mr Tolbert stressed the importance of the work done by GCCA+ mainly focused on sensitising the **Great Monrovia municipality** on the importance of understanding the dimension and the volume of their waste before being able to tackle it. Mr Tolbert clarified the commitment of the environmental protection agency in working closely with the municipality to sensitise the local communities of the waste challenge. This represented a real success as households were involved in the

- awareness campaign and the characterisation of waste. Unfortunately, this was not enough to cope with all the problems as the institutional capacity on waste is still a challenge and the way waste is managed strongly depend on international donors' support as it is for Nigeria. However, thanks to the help of the international funds, the Great Monrovia municipality was provided with the required equipment for the waste collection.
- d) Finally, the moderator gave the floor to Mr Padanou from Benin representing the clear example of how at the **local level** some pilot actions can produce more ambitious results as better reflecting the real challenges of the citizens. Indeed, Mr Padanou explained that in the framework of CoMSSA programme financed by DEVCO, the department of Zou, after characterisation of waste, tested a pilot action aimed the giving a second life to waste. At the very beginning, Mr Padanou pointed out the issues of working with local communities, especially in such a district characterised by a very low-income population. However, after awareness and sensitisation on the benefits of managing waste, giving a second life to it, the waste became an opportunity of business for farmers and SMEs involved in the waste collection.

2. MAIN TAKE-OUTS/FINDINGS identified in the discussion (including those related to progress, challenges and opportunities):

- a) Waste management offers African countries opportunities to participate in mitigation actions while delivering public, environmental and business benefits.
- b) Effective waste management can improve the environment, alleviate poverty, create business opportunities for local SMEs and reduce the informal market where are often exploited.
- c) Projects are already helping to build institutional and sectoral MRV arrangements at the federal and local level and gathering data on the GHG baseline. Understanding the quantity of GHGs linked to waste is necessary to unlock real business opportunities and market-based measures. Waste management and proper data collection using international recognized procedures as a way to attract international investors.
- d) Waste management needs to be tackled both at the national and local level. Municipalities should be active players in the design of national NDC waste sectoral plan cooperating with responsible national entities, as they have experience identifying suitable actions capable of reducing emissions from the sector.
- e) Linking local success stories with efforts to increase the scope of NDCs (for example including waste management in Nigeria's NDC) will be important to build examples that policy makers and communities can support.
- f) Waste management as a theme to get closed to SDGs and comply with SDGs as waste impact directly on several SDGs