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**National Implementing Entity: Towards Direct Access to Adaptation Funds in Malawi**

**Workshop Report**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CISONECC is grateful to Mr. Emmanuel Sobel Seck, Programme Manager, Knowledge Management - Environment, ENDA (Energie Environment Développement) from Senegal for the time he spared to share knowledge and experiences on establishment of the National Implementation Entity (NIE) towards direct access to adaptation funds in Malawi.

Many thanks are also due to Mr. Evans Njewa, Principal Environmental Officer/ UNFCCC Focal Point at the Environmental Affairs Dept (EAD) for his time and the knowledge and experiences he shared during the workshop.

CISONECC also extends heartfelt thanks to CISONECC members who participated and contributed to the workshop for their time and contributions. Their thoughtful reflections were key in making the workshop a successful learning event.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The government of Malawi is planning to set up a National Implementing Entity (NIE) for purposes of having direct access to adaptation climate funds. Discussions about a Malawi's NIE have been going on at national level. Government of Malawi advertised a call for Expressions of interest in December, 2013 for institutions to become Malawi's NIE. Civil society contribution to the process has not been well coordinated. Despite the need for civil society contribution to this pursuit by government; CISONECC members did not have sufficient information on what NIE is from a practical point of view. Against this background, CISONECC organized a workshop which was designed to equip members with information for constructive engagement in the subsequent steps of Malawi's NIE process by drawing knowledge and experiences from Senegal, the first country that ever established a NIE.

This report provides a summary of the workshop proceedings.

## **2.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

- Gain an in depth understanding of 'Direct Access' in the context of the UNFCCC adaptation funds and the relevance to Malawi's climate response;
- Discuss the role of civil society in relation to National Implementing Entities (NIEs) and the implications for the Malawian context; and
- Strategize CISONECC's future engagement with Malawi's NIE process.

## **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

- Presentations
- Plenary sessions
- Group work and discussion
- Questions and Answers

## **4.0 PROCEEDINGS**

### **4.1 *Opening Remarks***

The workshop was officially opened by the CISONECC Board Chairperson, Mr. Gracian Banda. He welcomed Mr. E. Seck from Senegal, Mr. E. Njewa from EAD, Mr. Melton Luhanga, CISONECC Technical Chair and Mr. Herbert Mwalukomo, CISONECC Coordinator and all CISONECC members present at the event. He highlighted the importance of having a NIE in Malawi and the need for civil society engagement in the process.

Mr. Melton Luhanga, CISONECC Technical Chair welcomed the workshop participants and facilitated the introductions of CISONECC members to the workshop. Herbert Mwalukomo introduced the workshop agenda in terms of its rationale, scope, objectives, activities and expected outcomes. He introduced the concept of NIE and direct access to adaptation funds in Malawi. He further provided an overview of the current status of the NIE process in Malawi and highlighted the need for CISONECC to understand the NIE process and learn from Senegal's experience on the same. Herbert encouraged the participants to fully and actively participate and contribute towards achieving the intended objectives of the workshop.

## 4.2 Topics Covered

The following topics were presented during the workshop:

- ***Understanding Climate Finance***

The topic was presented by Mr. Njewa. The aim of this topic was to allow participants to have a broad view of climate financing in terms of the available sources of funds for adaptation, how financial resources can be tapped from these sources, the Malawi's eligibility to these adaptation sources of funds and the concept of direct access to adaptation funds. He further explained the need for direct access to adaptation funding, how countries can have access to adaptation funds and the implications of the direct access to the green climate fund. Lastly, Mr Njewa highlighted a possible role for civil society in the national pursuit for Direct Access to adaptation funds.

- ***Direct Access to Adaptation Funds: A Civil Society Perspective***

The topic was presented by Mr E. Seck and aimed at introducing participants to the broad civil society perspectives towards direct access drawing from the Senegalese experience.

- ***Malawi's progress towards Direct Access: Nomination of a National Implementing Entity (NIE) and Beyond***

Mr. Njewa introduced participants to the Malawi's efforts towards direct access to the adaptation funds. He presented the background to the steps that have already been taken by the Government of Malawi towards direct access to adaptation funds. Mr Njewa informed the participants that Malawi through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management nominated an institution for possible accreditation as NIE in 2010 but it was not accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board. He further informed the participants another potential NIE had been nominated.

- ***Senegalese experience with Direct Access: NIE Accreditation and Operation***

Having covered the theoretical part of NIE process towards direct access to adaptation funds, Mr. Seck presented a Senegalese practical experience of the Senegalese established NIE that offers an opportunity of direct access to adaptation funds.

## 4.3 Open plenary and group discussions

The plenary session was facilitated by Mr. Luhanga.

- ***Inputs to the discussion questions***

Participants brainstormed and provided inputs on possible roles of civil society inside and outside Malawi's NIE:

*The role of CSOs inside Malawi's possible NIE*

- Influence decision making processes to incorporate community concerns
- To act as a liason between NIE, community and executing entities
- Lobby for enabling environment for information sharing among stakeholders
- Submitting proposals and implementing projects as Executing Entities.

#### *Role of CSOs outside Malawi's NIE*

- Advocacy to ensure NIE provides correct and timely information to address climate change in Malawi
- Influence effective and unbiased selection of projects to address community needs and adaptation to climate change
- Mobilize communities to take a proactive role in project design, implementation and monitoring/tracking resource allocation and use
- Awareness raising on the opportunity of funding through NIE

- **Key action points**

The following key action points were brainstormed from the plenary session and group work as action points:

- Learning from the Senegalese example, it was recommended that along with establishment of the NIE as an institution, government should facilitate development of a USD10 million adaptation proposal which will form the basis for accessing funds from the Adaptation Fund Board upon accreditation of the entity.
- CISONECC in collaboration with the Government should engage the media to facilitate effective communication and dissemination of NIE related issues.
- Government was called upon to establish an NIE Steering Committee that includes representation of CSOs to assume the coordination and facilitative roles of the NIE to be guided by Terms of Reference that provide for inclusive and transparent decision making.
- Government was asked to ensure that the choice of CSO representation in the NIE decision making body should be left to the CSOs.
- CISONECC should establish and strengthen collaboration between communities and Executing Entities to ensure community contribution to project design, implementation and monitoring.
- There is need for capacity building among CSO's and other stakeholders in preparation and submission of winning proposals to become Executing Entities.
- Seek confirmation from government that the NIE will be accountable to the National Technical Committee on Climate Change.

## **8.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

CISONECC Coordinator, Herbert Mwalukomo, thanked Mr. E. Seck, Mr. E. Njewa, Mr. M. Luhanga and all CISONECC members present for sparing their time to be present at the workshop. He gave special thanks to Mr E. Seck for accepting to the invitation to facilitate the workshop and share the Senegalese experience on NIE process and direct access to adaptation funds with CISONECC members. Mr. E. Seck also thanked CISONECC secretariat and especially Herbert for organising the workshop and inviting him to share the Senegalese experience on NIE and direct access to adaptation funds. Emmanuel also thanked CISONECC members present for sparing their time to be present at the workshop and for their positive contribution. The workshop was officially closed by Mr. Tamani Nkhono of CISANET. Mr Nkhono informed the participants that the workshop was a success and it was an eye opener on NIE and direct access to adaptation funds to most CISONECC members.

## ANNEX A – List of Participants

Name of Participant	Organisation	Location	Phone Number	Email Address
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