

A Brief Report of the Africa Security Forum Held in Rabat, Morocco December 1- 3, 2019

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The impact of climate change on security in Africa" was the theme of the 2019 edition of the Africa Security forum held in Rabat, Morocco, December 1-3, 2019. The meeting was attended by over 400 participants from 66 countries, including 35 Africans, with varied profession including researchers, civil society specialists, ministerial authorities, representatives of companies concerned, amongst others. The forum was organized by the Atlantis Centre for Research and Geostrategic Studies, a think tank in partnership with the International Security Technology Forum (ISTF) and under the high patronage of King Mohammed IV of Morocco.

The event highlighted the link between climate change and security issues in Africa. The organizers of the Africa Security forum have decided to place the 2019 edition under the banner of security to develop strategies to preserve peace in Africa, based on climate preservation. The three-day event provided opportunity for participants to explore the issue to highlight the impact of climate change on ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies, and also provided a framework for developing solutions to limit these impacts on both sides of the African continent.



Photo: Job Eronmhonsele (Left) and Kabiru Mohammed Right during the 2019 ASF in Rabat, Morocco

Key Discussions

Among the main themes discussed were food security and water management. And in this context, exchanges took place on improved water management, climate change and food security, as well as crop yields and livestock productivity. The other two main areas covered were population growth and agricultural development on the one hand, and future's solutions on the other. In addition to the plenary sessions, business meetings with private companies were also on the agenda, as well as the launch of the Africa Security Network, a network that will work to implement the resolutions adopted during the forum and to enable Africa to propose African solutions to security and climate change issues on the continent.

REPORT ON 7TH INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION CONFERENCE ON AFRICA, ACCRA METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE CENTRE, ACCRA, HELD ON 12 – 14TH NOVEMBER, 2019

By Dr. Godwin Atedhor

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The 7th International Climate Change and Population Conference on Africa which held at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly Conference Centre on 12 – 14th November, 2019 offered me the opportunity to present a paper I co-authored with Professor Peter A.O. Odjugo. Our paper was titled intensifying warming in selected urban settlements in Nigeria. Our presentation highlighted intensifying warming in urban settlements across the major ecological zones in Nigeria with varied seasonal pattern. We therefore argued that global warming could accentuate the existing urban heat island phenomenon and that this could, among others, aggravate respiratory disorders, heat rashes, heat exhaustion, dehydration, reduced immunity. Therefore, attempts at building effective adaptation against intensifying urban heat, especially in urbanized areas must be anchored on understanding of the trends and seasonality of warming on the basis of ecological zones.

The conference also provided a platform for knowledge sharing and networking. My profound gratitude goes to the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) for funding my participation in the conference.



Photo: A Cross Section of Participants at the 7th ICCPCA, Ghana



Photo: At the Centre: Dr. G. Atedhor at the 7th ICCPCA Ghana