

**Subject: Invitation to attend UNDP's side event "Climate Action Hackathon: Leveraging Weather and Climate Data to Create Solutions for Adaptation"**

I am pleased to invite you to attend UNDP's side event "**Climate Action Hackathon: Leveraging Weather and Climate Data to Create Solutions for Adaptation**" organized by UNDP's Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Development in Africa (CIRDA) in collaboration with the Brown Institute for Media Innovation at Columbia University during the 44<sup>th</sup> Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) Meeting on 24 of May, 2016 in Bonn, Germany at the World Conference Centre (Bonn I/II Room).

The UNDP CIRDA Programme, financed by LDCF/GEF, provides services and technology transfer support to 11 African Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia to generate, process and disseminate high-quality weather and climate information as a tool for both short-term early warning systems (EWS) and long-term planning and adaptation (NAPs). A further objective of the Programme is to promote opportunities for public-private partnerships that benefit from the availability of reliable low-cost technologies linked to cellular phone communication, with potential opportunities for revenue generation to improve the sustainability of poorly funded hydromet agencies.

With obsolete or malfunctioning technologies, dozens of local languages, high-levels of illiteracy, and limited electricity and access to media, many vulnerable communities in Africa do not receive reliable weather reports, and only a few nations possess the ability to issue early warning messages and reach the "last mile." In response to this challenge, this past March in Zambia the UNDP's CIRDA Programme launched a Climate Action Hackathon. The event engaged young African developers to create innovative software focused on communicating directly with end users.

The event will present a practical demonstration of the innovative solutions that were developed by the hackers to provide weather information for specific end users, including farmers, vulnerable communities and policymakers to inform adaptation actions.

The side event will also introduce the results of a Market Study on the engagement of the private sector in Africa in the field of climate technologies and services as part of a new vision promoted by the UNDP's CIRDA Programme.

I look forward to seeing you in Bonn.

Yours sincerely,



**Bonizella Biagini**  
**CIRDA Manager**  
**UNDP**