

# AFRICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2022

## SUPPORTING CLIMATE-SMART DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

9-11 December  
Blaclava

**HYBRID EVENT**

## PROGRAMME

 **Friday, 09 December 2022**

 **08:45 TO 21:00 GMT**

 **Virtual**

**REGISTER**

**08:45–9:45 GMT**

**Opening Ceremony (Grand Ball Room)**

8:40 – Guests seated

8:43 – Arrival of PM

8.50 – Family photo

8:44 – **Meeting Called to Order by Master of Ceremony, Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen**, CEO of The Nielsen Network (Media & News Company)

9:00 – Opening video

9:05 – **Performance by Ms. Zainab Soyfoo** – Spoken Word Artist

9:10 – **Welcome Address- Dr. The Hon Renganaden Padayachy**, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

**Opening Remarks**

9:20– **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

9:25 – **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**, Assistant Administrator, Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

9:30 – **Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina**, President, African Development Bank (AfDB) **(5 min.)- Video message**

9:35 – **Official Opening by The Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

9:45 – **Departure of Hon. PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**

**Rapporteurs:**

- **Dr. Adamon Mukasa**, AfDB
- **Dr. Jacob Assa**, UNDP
- **Dr. Allan Mukungu**, UNECA

**9.45-10.00 GMT**

**Health Break**





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**10:00–11:15 GMT**

**Plenary Session 1: Leadership Dialogue:  
Enhancing Climate Finance in Africa (AfDB,  
UNECA, and UNDP) (Grand Ball Room)**

Africa's climate financing needs are huge and growing, making adequate financing crucial if progress is to be made toward the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. The disruptive impact of COVID-19, the Russia invasion of Ukraine, and increasing debt stocks in the continent limit the capacities of African states to meet climate finance targets.

Despite initiatives such as the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, the flow of climate finance to the continent remains very low. Africa receives only 3% of global climate finance flow—US\$ 18.3 billion over 2016–2019. In fact, the continent's climate finance landscape is dominated by concessional loans and grants, with a large share allocated for cross-cutting issues, while results-based financing and lines of credit to enable private sector participation are relatively low.

This session focuses on innovative and sustainable mechanisms to stimulate the flow of finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa, including through capacity building. The session will provide an opportunity for peer learning based on countries' climate finance landscape and challenges—and will identify specific interventions that could improve the volume of climate finance across climate and gender-sensitive economic sectors.

African leaders will share their views on opportunities to reshape climate finance models in Africa and discuss best practices and lessons on how to raise more finance domestically and internationally to address climate change. They will discuss the potential of innovative financing mechanisms and reflect on innovative ways to leverage additional financial resources, including the mobilization and use of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for climate programs, the creation by the AfDB of an African Green Finance Facility Fund (AG3F), mobilization of private financing, including the issuance of green bonds, and strengthened partnerships, in particular with China.

Overall, leaders are expected to discuss policies and measures that promote the mobilization of domestic and international climate finance resources, as well as the efficient allocation/use of these resources to reflect climate-smart development.

### Key questions:

- 1- What factors define the success or failure of current climate finance models in supporting adaptation and mitigation actions and sustainable development in Africa, especially in your country?
- 2- How can we raise more climate finance domestically and internationally to address climate change issues in Africa? What other instruments or



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mechanisms can be leveraged to radically improve the flow of international climate finance to fund Africa's adaptation and mitigation measures?

- 3- How can climate finance be channelled most effectively to needed economic sectors, including agriculture and industry? How can the public and private sectors work together to scale up climate finance for investments in sustainable projects?
- 4- How can climate finance mobilization help strengthen resilient infrastructure development and local capacity to develop sustainable projects, structure blended finance to improve access to capital, and engage more effectively with the private sector?
- 5- How can the future AG3F be effective in solving part of the climate finance in Africa? What key advice can help make AG3F a success? What role can other organizations, financial institutions, and partners play in making the Fund pro-poor and more climate inclusive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Gerard Manuel**

### Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Hon. Renganaden Padayachy**, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, Mauritius
- **H.E. Mr. Flavien Joubert**, Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Seychelles- Virtual participation
- **Prof. Kevin Urama**, Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- **H.E Ms. Aminata Assome Diatta**, Former Minister of Trade, Senegal
- **Mr. Mathieu Mandeng**, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank Mauritius Ltd

### Rapporteurs:

- **Dr. Adamon Mukasa**, AfDB
- **Dr. Michael Mbate**, UNDP
- **Dr. Linus Mofor**, UNECA



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**11:15–11:45 GMT**

**Press Conference by AfDB, UNECA, UNDP**

**11:45–13:00 GMT**

**Plenary Session 2: High-level Dialogue of  
Development Partners on Just Energy Tran-  
sition in Africa (AfDB, UNECA, and UNDP)  
(Grand Ball Room)**

Africa's energy systems face complex challenges. The continent hosts about 80% of the 733 million people in the world without access to electricity and 37% of the 2.4 billion people who lack access to clean cooking solutions. Changing this status quo within the context of SDG7 goals and Agenda 2063 requires game-changing policies and investment.

However, such an ambitious goal should be pursued within the context of a transitioning energy system that leverages the continent's immense clean energy potential while phasing out carbon-intensive technologies and resources. It is estimated that energy transition goals that respect a 1.5°C scenario offer Africa 6.4% higher long-term growth prospects than without transition.

It is in this context that 14 ministers from 10 African countries gathered in Kigali in May 2022 during the Sustainable Energy for All Global Forum to start a concerted and coherent approach to Africa defining, owning, and leading its energy transition. The Kigali Communique outlines the principles for a just and equitable energy transition in Africa. This was followed by an extra-ordinary session of the African Union Commission's Specialized Technical Committee on Energy and Infrastructure that elaborated a common African position on energy access and just transition. The common position was subsequently adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union. This common position defines the framework for a just and equitable energy transition in Africa.

This high-level dialogue is aimed at gathering consensus to contribute to the common position. It will focus on discussing possible pathways to a just energy transition in the continent, identifying concrete recommendations, and charting an effective way forward for building coalitions and partnerships in support of member states towards the design of national and regional energy transition strategies and their implementation. A robust partnership model among key institutions in Africa, and key international partners, is needed, supported by firm empirical evidence and analyses, for the implementation of a just and equitable energy transition in Africa.

The discussions will be guided by the following key issues and questions.

### Key questions:

- What are possible typologies of a compelling and credible, just and equitable, energy transition for Africa, and what are the challenges and opportunities that such a transition poses to the continent's development agenda?





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- Are natural gas and green hydrogen the key to ensuring a compelling just and equitable energy transition in Africa? What are the knowledge gaps in making the case for gas and green hydrogen in Africa's energy transition?
- How do we leverage partnership among continental organizations, member states and global partners to support Africa's energy transition?
- What are some of the financial innovations and models that could be used to support investment in Africa's energy transition? What roles could public finance, sovereign funds, private sector finance, and national, regional, and global capital and financial markets play in those investment models?
- What are the mechanisms to protect affected and vulnerable groups within a just energy transition and to maximize socioeconomic opportunities in green industries, including the establishment of national and regional value chains in green industries?
- How can effective partnerships be deployed towards supporting the development of national and regional energy transition strategies inspired by Africa's common position on energy transition?

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen**, CEO of The Nielsen Network (Media & News Company)

### Panelists:

- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**, Assistant Administrator, Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Prof. Kevin Urama**, Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- **Dr. Marit Kitaw**, Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC), African Union Commission
- **Dr. Richard Munang**, Africa Regional Climate Change Coordinator of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Dr. Victoria Kwakwa**, World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa



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### Rapporteurs:

- Dr. Adamon Mukasa, AfDB
- Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UNDP
- Dr. Yohannes Hailu, UNECA

13:00–14:00 GMT

Lunch break

14:00–15:30 GMT

**Concurrent Sessions 1: Just Energy  
Transitions in African Economies (UNDP)  
(Grand Ball Room)**

### 1.1. Cost of Energy Transition in Africa

**Moderator:** Dr. Jacob Assa, Strategic Advisor, UNDP RBA

- Paper 1: Reducing Carbon Footprint by Replacing Generators with Solar PV Systems: A Contingent Valuation Study in Lagos, Nigeria. **Dr. Eleanya Kalu Nduka**

**Discussant:** Mr. Ali Zafar, UNDP

- Paper 2: Consumer Preference and Willingness to Pay for Alternative Energy Sources; A Discrete Choice Experiment. **Ms. Angela Boakye Afriye**

**Discussant:** Mr. Bheki Bhembe, UNDP

- Paper 3: Natural Resources, Renewable Energy, and Governance: A Path Towards Sustainable Development. **Mr. Tii Nchofoung Njivukuh**

**Discussant:** Mr. Ademonkoun Missinhoun, UNDP

- Paper 4: Eco-efficiency and Carbon Emission Abatement Cost in the Charcoal Value Chain in Congo Basin: Evidence from Cameroon. **Mr. Moustapha Mounmemi**

**Discussant:** Ms. Weyinmi Omamulu, UNDP

- Paper 5: Productivity Costs of Green Energy Transition in Africa. **Dr. Ligane Massamba Sene**

**Discussant:** Mr. Thangavel Palanivel, UNDP



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### Rapporteur:

- **Ms. Maria Achopa**, UNDP

### 1.2. Governance, Institutions and Energy Transition in Africa (Barracuda Meeting Room)

**Moderator:** Ms. Fatmata Sesay, Senior Economist, UNDP Ghana

- Paper 6: Réussir la Transition énergétique en Afrique Subsaharienne:

La Qualité Institutionnelle Importe-t-elle? **Brou Emmanuel Aka**

**Discussant:** Mr. Francis Andrianarisoa, UNDP

- Paper 7: Achieving Universal Electricity Access in Line with SDG7: An Application of OnSSET for Rural Electrification Planning in Nigeria. **Dr. Salisu Rabiou Isihak**

**Discussant:** Mr. Domingos Mazivila, UNDP

- Paper 8: Perception et Adaptation au Changement Climatique: Expérience des Exploitants Agricoles du Congo-Brazzaville. **Mrs. Chancelvie Imelda Imbenga Apo**

**Discussant:** Mamadou Bobo Sow, UNDP

- Paper 9: Gouvernance Intelligente et Emissions Fugitives de CO2 en Afrique. **Mr. Josué Kevin Fotso Mbobda**

**Discussant:** Mactar Seydou, UNDP

- Paper 10: Choc Climatique et Marché du Travail en Afrique Subsaharienne: Effets sur l'emploi des Jeunes et la Réallocation de l'Offre de Travail. **Mr. Sadou Diallo**

**Discussant:** Dr. Ernest Bamou, UNDP

### Rapporteur:

- **Mr. Daniel Gbetnkom**, UNDP



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**15:30–16:45 GMT**

**Plenary Session 3: Debt Sustainability  
and Climate-Smart Development in Africa  
(AfDB) (Grand Ball Room)**

Debt instruments—such as concessional and non-concessional loans, bonds, and credit lines—are a potential avenue to support Africa's climate-smart development efforts. They help governments with limited fiscal space secure additional resources to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact while allocating existing public resources to other development sectors such as education, health, or infrastructure. Used prudently and managed efficiently, debt instruments could play a crucial role in leapfrogging Africa's climate-smart development.

However, recent experience has shown that debt instruments can also be a double-edged sword if they are inappropriately used or reach unsustainable levels. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout from the Russia invasion of Ukraine have exacerbated Africa's development financing challenges by straining public finances, heightening debt levels, and tightening financial flows. In the short term, the average debt-to-GDP ratio in Africa already increased significantly, to 71.4% in 2020 from 60% in 2019. As of 31 July 2022, of 38 African countries with Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) ratings, 15 were rated as in high risk of debt distress, and another 7 were already in debt distress, with only 16 at moderate risk of debt distress.

Between 2010 and 2019, debt instruments, mostly loans, accounted for about two-thirds of all climate finance channelled to Africa. Of these loans, two-fifths were on commercial terms, which poses an additional risk of plunging developing countries deep into debt when more relief is needed to cope with the twin effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia invasion of Ukraine as well as increasing climate change challenges. A report by the International Institute for Environment and Development finds that immediate debt relief could help unlock US\$105 billion in climate finance, with 77% of this debt to be relieved in sub-Saharan African countries. A further US\$329 billion could be raised through new debt issuances linked to climate and nature such as sustainability-linked bonds in countries with stronger fiscal positions.

This session aims to engage the panelists in an open discussion of how current innovative debt instruments such as green bonds, green loans, sustainability bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds and loans as well as debt-for-climate swaps and climate-linked debt could be used sustainably to finance Africa's climate-smart development ambitions. Panelists will discuss the main challenges in leveraging and operationalizing these instruments, share country experiences on their implementation, and discuss best practices in debt-financed climate-smart development.





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### Key questions:

- Under what conditions should debt instruments be utilized to finance climate-smart development in Africa?
- Is the current global debt architecture fit for purpose? What short-, medium-, or long-term practical reforms should be implemented to improve it?
- What structural factors explain the disparities in the capacity of African countries to leverage innovative debt instruments for climate-smart development? What can be learned from individual country experiences?
- What specific role(s) should African governments play in ensuring the sustainability of debt-financed climate-smart development projects? What are the examples of good practices in that regard?

### Moderator:

- **Prof. Kevin Urama**, Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

### Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Hon. Renganaden Padayachy**, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, Mauritius
- **H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko**, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission - Video message
- **Dr. Andrew Dabalen**, Chief Economist, World Bank's Africa Region-
- **Dr. Aloysius Ordu**, Senior Fellow and Director, Africa Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution- Virtual participation
- **Prof. Opha Pauline Dube**, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Botswana and Vice Chair of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Scientific Advisory Panel
- **Mrs. Hannah Ryder**, Chief Executive Officer, Development Reimagined

### Rapporteurs:

- **Dr. Adamon Mukasa**, AfDB





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16:45–18:00 GMT

**Special Event A: Launch Africa Sustainable Development Report (AfDB, AUC, UNECA, UNDP) (Grand Ball Room)**

The Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASDR) is a collaboration between the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme. It is currently the only report that systematically tracks the progress of African countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want". The 2022 version of the report reviews Africa's progress on five SDGs (i.e., SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15, and 17) as well as the related goals of Agenda 2063. The 2022 edition of the ASDR evaluates Africa's progress on its continental and global commitments in the context of triple crises of COVID-19, climate and the Russia invasion of Ukraine which are adversely impacting the continent's performance on both Agendas. The analysis involves a quantitative estimate of the socio-economic impacts of the crises and offers policy recommendations to steer the continent back on track.

**Moderator:** Maggie Mutesi, MANSA Media

**Video clip**

**Opening Remarks**

- **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**, Assistant Administrator, Director Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Mr. Abdoulaye Coulibaly**, Director, Governance and Economic Reforms and OIC Director of the Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department
- **Prof. Vincent O Nmehielle**, Secretary General, African Development Bank Group
- **Dr. Marit Kitaw**, Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC), African Union Commission

**Presentation:**

- **Bartholomew Armah**, Chief, Development Planning Section, Macroeconomics & Governance Division, UNECA





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### Panellists:

- **Prof. David Luke**, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Ms. Laone Hulela**, Co-founder, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA)
- **Dr. Aloysius Ordu**, Senior Fellow and Director, Africa Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution- Virtual participation
- **Ms. Meseret Warner**, Founder and Managing Director, Ignite Investment, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### Rapporteurs:

- **Mr. Michael Mbate**, UNDP
- **Dr. Kebba Jammeh**, AfDB
- **Ms. Farzana Sharmin**, UNECA

**19:00-21:00 GMT**

### Gala Dinner

(Hosted by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development)



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 **9:00 TO 18:00 GMT**

 **Virtual**

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**9:00–10:30 GMT**

**Plenary Session 4: From National to Regional Blue Bonds: Attract Blue Impact Investing to Unleash the Potential of the African Blue Economy for Climate-smart Development in Africa (UNECA) (Grand Ball Room)**

Africa has the longest shoreline in the world, stretching over 47,000 km. Over 13 million square kilometres of maritime zones under African jurisdiction are underutilized. Fisheries and aquaculture account for over US\$25 billion in GDP every year. Yet fisheries employ only about 12 million people, are a source of food for just over 200 million people, less than 15% of the population, and contribute just 1.26% of Africa's GDP. In addition, over 90% of Africa's trade—imports and exports—is by sea. The entrepreneurial aptitude for ocean-related matters is vast. Thus, inclusive “blue” entrepreneurship, innovation, finance, value-chains, and trade while enhancing the capacity of African countries to attract large-scale investment for blue-based activities are important priorities central to the African vision Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Globally, blue bonds are being used to ensure that the ocean, coastal areas, and related occupations remain sustainable. This will ensure that there is adequate food in the African continent and that the people of Africa are gainfully employed.

In addition, given the international nature of the blue economy, the issuance of regional blue bonds could attract the interest of climate impact investors. For the many African countries with small, fragile economies, regional approach would reduce risks and make the bonds more attractive. Regional blue funding mechanisms would not only fund blue bonds, but also unleash the potential for debt-for-nature swaps. Eventual expansion of such swap possibilities could bring them to a large enough scale to have an impact on climate.

This session aims to engage the panelists in a discussion on how African countries can mobilize blue bonds, how these bonds can be prudently used to meet sustainable development objectives, how a regional approach could scale up blue economy activities to the point that they have an impact on climate impact, how to leverage the AfCFTA framework to develop sustainable regional blue value-chains, and how to promote Africa's efforts to “build forward better.”

**Moderator:**

- **Dr. Adam Elhiraika, Director**, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UNECA

**Panelists:**

- **Daouda Sembene**, Distinguished Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development. Former Senior Economic Advisor to the President of Senegal. Former IMF Executive Director - **Virtual participation**





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- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Mr. Yuvan Beejadhur**, Senior Adviser to the Director-General, Office of the Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
- **Professor Anthony Nyong**, Regional Director of the Global Center on Adaptation, Africa
- **Mr Kevin Njiraini**, Regional Director, Southern Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC)- Virtual participation

### Rapporteurs:

- **Dr. Nassim Oulmane**, UNECA

**10:30–11:00 GMT**

**Health break**

**11:00–12:15 GMT**

**Special Event B: Launching of the Economic Report for Africa 2022 and Existential Priorities of the AfCFTA (UNECA) (Grand Ball Room)**

The Economic Report for Africa 2022 focuses on recent economic and social development in Africa and explores two priorities: first, unlocking the potential of developing digital technologies to mitigate global supply-chain risks; and second, leveraging digital technologies and regional value chains; as well as the digital gender divide in skills and development. It also reviews the prospects and challenges of Africa's participation in global value chains (GVCs) and development of regional value chains (RVCs) by leveraging digitalisation, intra-African trade, and current African efforts to liberalize trade in the continent. Furthermore, it examines how to unlock production capacity to meet local and global demands in strategic digital sectors, focusing on the integration of digital technologies.

Existential Priorities of the AfCFTA aims to guide and assist implementation of the AfCFTA over the next 10–15 years. It identifies some of the critical actions needed to achieve the vision of an inclusive, transformative, digital, rules-based, results-based, modern, comprehensive, and fit-for-purpose trade area that progressively becomes the African Common Market and a key pillar of the Africa We Want and of the African Economic Community (OAU, 1991). The book has three parts. Part One has five framing chapters that address Africa's role in the world, Africa's regional integration architecture, the quest for transformative continental integration in Africa, the role of economic integration, and the path from ratification to implementation. Part Two covers the four key areas of energy costs, textiles and clothing, women and youth in trade, and free movement of persons. Part



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Three considers digitalization, technology and innovation, and public health as critical areas for the next 10 years. The next decade will make or break the AfCFTA, depending on how successfully deep-seated threats and challenges are addressed; whether good leadership emerges in government, industry, academia, and civil society; and inclusively works to promote digitalisation, technology and innovation, public health, and other key priorities.

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Eunice Kamwendo**, Director, Sub-regional Officer for Southern Africa, UNECA

### Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

### Presenters:

- **Dr. Mactar Seck**, Chief, Technology Section, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Division, UNECA (10 minutes, ERA 2022)- Virtual participation
- **Dr. Joseph Atta-Mensah**, Principal Economic Affairs Officer Macroeconomic and Governance Division, UNECA

### Panelists:

- **Prof. Fantu Cheru**, Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy, American University, Washington, DC and Associate Fellow, Ethiopian Academy of Sciences- Virtual participation
- **Ms. Mahlet Girma Bekele**, Programme Manager, EU Technical Assistance Facility Support to the AfCFTA Secretariat, Expertise France- Virtual participation
- **Dr. Stephen Karingi**, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UNECA Virtual participation
- **Dr. Mary Lucia Mbithi**, Senior Lecturer of Economics at the School of Economics, University of Nairobi, and the Director of Research at the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Hub at University of Nairobi (AfCFTA)
- **Dr. Joy Kategekwa**, Strategy Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

### Rapporteurs:

- **Mr. Douglas Kigabo Bitonda**, UNECA





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**12:15–13:15 GMT**

**Lunch break**

**13:15–14:45 GMT**

**Plenary Session 5: Uncertainty and the  
Future of Sustainable Development  
(UNDP) (Grand Ball Room)**

The inherent uncertainty of climate change presents an analytical challenge both ecologically and in terms of the impact of climate change on the future of sustainable development. In this 21st century of human life, climatic upheavals affect regions differently. Sea-level rise, climate variability, increased erratic rainfall patterns, and declining crop yields are all manifestations of the consequences of climate change that upset many of the certainties that used to underpin public policies. In the African context, this requires an analysis of the social, economic, and political uncertainties engendered by climate change.

The crises we are experiencing—pandemic crisis, peace crisis, climate crisis—highlight more than ever the uncertainty in the underlying factors of underdevelopment. This challenges our approaches and solutions to respond to the impacts of crises, but even more so the definition of long-term sustainable policies. In the African context, it becomes imperative to innovate in our approaches to defining development policies by considering its multi-dimensional financial, inequalitarian and social implications.

Uncertainties associated with climate change have prompted governments to formulate corresponding climate policies, which have an impact on all sectors. It also creates climate policy uncertainty, with major implications for manufacturing and production industries, the agricultural sector, and development policies.

This new uncertainty complex is not just about the planetary pressures of the Anthropocene but also about development pathway, including the transformation of political, social, economic, and technological arrangements and institutions to ease planetary pressures and ensure people well-being.

This session will reflect on uncertainty in development trajectories. It will engage panelists on how can development policies be predictable in the face of climatic, economic, and technological uncertainties? How do we manage the new uncertainty complex and thrive in the face of it in developing context? How should we rethink development approaches, especially sustainable ones, in the face of the diversity of uncertainties that are growing stronger and accelerating? What impacts will there be on market coordination? How can development planning occur in the face of climatic, economic, and financial uncertainties? How should risk be integrated into public decision-making for sustainable development? To what extent does uncertainty challenge collective decision-making processes, technological options, and market efficiency? Does Africa still have time to adapt economically to the uncertainties linked to climate change? Are there a larger set of policy options to better cope with global shocks?



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### Keynote Speaker:

- **Dr. Pedro Conceicao**, Director of Human Development Report Office, UNDP- Virtual participation

### Moderator:

- **Dr. Raymond Gilpin**, Chief Economist, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

### Panelists:

- **Hon. Kavydass Ramano**, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius
- **Ms. Winnie Cheche**, Young Conservationist, Blogger, Climate Activist, Volunteer, and Communication Lead, Kenya Environmental Action Network, Kenya
- **Prof. David Luke**, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Mr. Jakkie Cilliers**, founder and former Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa- **Virtual participation**

### Rapporteur:

- Dr, Jacob Assa, UNDP

**14:45-16:15 GMT**

**Concurrent Sessions 2: Climate Change and Agriculture (AfDB) (Barracuda Meeting Room)**

### 2.1. Perceptions, Barriers, and Adaptations of Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa

**Moderator:** Dr. Ousman Gajigo, Microeconomic, Institutional and Development Impact, AfDB

- Paper 11: Socio-economic, Institutional and Environmental Enablers and Barriers to Climate Smart Agriculture Adoption and Scaling in Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria. **Dr. Austin Tenthani Phiri**

**Discussant:** Dr. Njeri Wabiri, AfDB

- Paper 12: Rural Farmers' Perceptions of and Adaptations to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) matter in Nigeria and Ethiopia? **Mr. Usman Alhassan**





## PROGRAMME

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**Discussant:** Dr. Adamon Mukasa, AfDB

- Paper 13: Geospatial and Time-dependent Analysis of Agricultural Drought Vulnerability in Africa: Towards Climate-smart Agriculture. **Dr. Jay Rovisham Singh Doorga**

**Discussant:** Dr. Auma George Kararach, AfDB

- Paper 14: Understanding Gender Differences on the Choices of a Portfolio of Climate-smart Agricultural Practices in Sub-Saharan Africa. **Dr. Hailemariam Teklewold**

**Discussant:** Dr. Yaya Koloma, AfDB

- Paper 15: Climate-smart Agriculture and Food Security: Cross-country Evidence from West Africa. **Dr. Martin Paul Jr. Tabe-Ojong**

**Discussant:** Dr. Kebba Jammeh, AfDB

- Paper 16: Adaptation to Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity. **Mr. Jean Awe *Virtual participation***

**Discussant:** Ms. Rita Effah, AfDB

**Rapporteurs:**

- Dr. Yaya Koloma, AfDB**

### 2.2. Climate Change, Conflict and Food Security (Grand Ball Room)

**Moderator:** Dr. Eric Ogunleye, Advisor to the Vice President and Chief Economist, AfDB

- Paper 17: Impact of Soil Nitrification on Cereals' Productivity and the Environment under a Changing Climate: Evidence from Nigeria (1961–2020). **Dr. Anthony Onoja**

**Discussant:** Mr. Constant Adeniyi, AfDB

- Paper 18: Climate Change, Herders-Farmers Conflict and Food Security in Nigeria. **Mr. Emmanuel Abbah**

**Discussant:** Mr. Philippe Trape, AfDB

- Paper 19: Climate Change, Technology Use and Maize Productivity in West Africa. **Dr. Prince Maxwell Etwire**



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9-11 December  
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**HYBRID EVENT**

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 **Virtual**

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**Discussant:** Dr. John Herbert Ainembabazi, AfDB

- Paper 20: Leveraging Optimal Portfolio of Drought Tolerant Maize Varieties for Weather Index Insurance and Food Security. **Dr. Sebastain Awondo**

**Discussant:** Ms. Margaret Kamau, AfDB

- Paper 21: Farmers' Willingness to Accept Compensation to Control Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution in the Limpopo River Basin of South Africa. **Mr. Alfred Tunyire Apio**

**Discussant:** Dr. Adeleke Salami, AfDB

**Rapporteurs:**

- Ms. Margaret Kamau, AfDB

**16:15–16:45 GMT**

**Health break**

**16:45–18:00 GMT**

**Special Event C1: Energy Transition Costs for Africa (UNDP) (Grand Ball Room)**

Achieving net zero energy emissions by 2050 requires a substantial increase of capital-intensive clean energy assets such as wind, solar PV, electric vehicles, and hydrogen electrolyzers. The energy transition has significant costs, especially for developing countries. It also entails loss of government revenue in the transition from oil and gas to low-carbon and zero-carbon energy sources. Accelerating energy transition with the goal of 'net zero by 2050' while maintaining affordable energy for all requires investments by Africa of US\$ 100–300 billion. Building the infrastructure necessary for the green energy transition will require a significant scaling-up in investment, which developing countries will need to find ways to finance.

Transitioning to renewable energy generates tangible benefits in terms of the environment and emission of greenhouse gases but the economic productivity costs of switching to clean energy cannot be overlooked in addition to the massive spending required, potential disruption in energy systems and the risks of the disappearance of jobs and new inequalities. It is crucial to identify and quantify synergies and trade-offs.

While clean energy transitions rely on much higher equity and debt, capital structures also hinge on the widespread mobilization of low-cost debt, e.g., for new capital-intensive, utility-scale solar projects supported by long-term power purchase agreements. Urgent attention must also be given to innovative



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financing mechanisms to mobilize private sector investment and financing in addition to public funding. Blended finance could help de-risk the capital required for longer-term investment in the energy transition.

However, the transition towards low-carbon and, eventually, zero-carbon fuels also offer opportunities. Africa has vast resource potential in wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy. The energy transition may bring net economic growth and employment benefits if the continent manages to properly direct investments in processing capacity further up the value chain of the raw materials (manganese, copper, lithium, cobalt, chromium, and platinum) essential to the energy transition and already abundant in Africa.

This session will discuss the various costs associated with the energy transition, both the direct costs associated with the necessary investments and the economic costs inherent in changes in the structure of productivity and in the allocation of productive resources.

### Presentation:

- **Raymond Gilpin, Chief Economist, Regional Director for Africa, UNDP**

### Moderator:

- **Raymond Gilpin, Chief Economist, Regional Director for Africa, UNDP**

### Panelists:

- **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy-Video message
- **Prof. Desire Avom**, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon
- **Dr. Ayodele Odusola**, Resident Representative and Head of Finance Hub, UNDP
- **Gyude Moore**, Center for Global Development, Washington, virtual participation

### Rapporteurs:

- **Ms. Maria Achopa**, UNDP
- **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh**, UNDP



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### Special Event C2: The Great Green Wall – An Initiative to Achieve Sustainable Development in the Sahel - (UNDP) (Barracuda Meeting Room)

Launched in 2007, the Great Green Wall initiative (GGWI) aims to restore and sustainably manage land in the Sahel region. Over the years, the initiative has evolved into a comprehensive approach with the ambition to restore 100Mha of degraded land, to sequester 250 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>, and to create 10 million green jobs, leading to improve living conditions and strengthen resilience of the Sahelian people.

While enormous achievements have been made since the launch of the initiative, only 4 Mha of the targeted 100Mha of land have been restored; in order to reach this target by 2030, it is necessary to raise the current pace of land restoration to 8.2 Mha annually. The estimated cost to achieve this target is between US\$ 3.6 billion and US\$ 4.3 billion per year and could reach a total of between USD 36 billion and USD 43 billion up to 2030.

Despite its importance in the light of climate change impacting first-hand the Sahel, the Great Green Wall initiative still needs to be uplifted and integrated as a priority in high-level agendas as part of national development strategies in the region, through an integrated development approach that will provide the means to the GGWI to fully mobilize a various range of sectors and bring multiple benefits to communities beyond environmental preservation: economic opportunities in green economy to achieve resilient and sustainable livelihoods; diversification and structuration of value chains; education, capacity building and youth empowerment; social cohesion; etc.

In this context, the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) together with its partners, has taken several steps to enhance the governance and coordination of the initiative in a much more cross-sector and integrated manner. This materializes with the launch of national GGW coalition platforms; the creation (under the leadership of UNCCD) of the GGW accelerator for better aid coordination; the formulation of a Multi-State Integrated Programme and national programming frameworks; and the development of a UNDP regional project designed as a direct contribution to the GGWI through this multi-state programme.

This side event will present the Great Green Wall as an integrated sustainable development initiative rather than a simple land regeneration project and, as such, it will advocate for stronger ownership of the initiative by planning and financing institutions operating at regional and national levels. The session will explore the major challenges encountered at the operational and institutional level for the implementation of the Great Green Wall, present the recent tools launched to improve coordination and effectiveness, and highlight innovative solutions and capitalize on practical lessons. It will represent an opportunity to discuss and identify options and strategies for better integration in national budgets and other financing opportunities to scale up the implementation of the strategy through strong national and regional partnerships and achieve its initial targets by 2030. It will also discuss the importance of engaging key actors, such as the youth and women, at the community level to benefit the local populations on the long-term.



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### Moderator:

- **Dr. El Hadji Fall**, Strategic Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

### Panelists:

- **Mr. Richard Alain Donwahi**, Chair of COP15 on desertification
- **Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko**, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment- Video message
- **Moumouni Sanda Bachir**, Responsable du Projet JESAC (Jeunesse Sahélienne pour l'Action Climatique)
- **Dr. Brahim Said**, Executive Secretary of PAGGW
- **Mr. Al-Hamdou Dorsouma**, Ag. Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- **Ms. Nwanne Vwede-Obahor**, Director Programmes Implementation Support Unit/United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel Office of the Special Co-ordinator for Development in the Sahel

### Rapporteur:

- **Ms. Ophelie Mussetta**, UNDP
- **Mr. Thomas Pitaud**, UNDP



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 Virtual

**REGISTER**

9:00–10:30 GMT

**Concurrent Sessions 3: Climate-Smart  
Industrialization of Africa (ECA) (Grand  
Ball Room)**

### 3.1. Industrialization, Environmental Quality and Climate Change

**Moderator:** Ms. Eunice Kamwendo, Director, Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa, UNECA

- Paper 22: Quality of Air in an African Urban Environment within the Context of Climate Change: Understanding Attitudes and Economic Valuation in the Case of Dakar, Senegal. Sokhna Mbathio Diallo

**Discussant:** Dr. James Murombedzi, UNECA

- Paper 23: Activités économiques et émissions de CO2 dans l'UEMOA: Une Analyse du cadre de la Courbe Environnementale de Kuznets. **Dr. Balogan Komlan Anani-Adjeoda**

**Discussant:** Dr. Nassim Oulmane, UNECA

- Paper 24: Spatial Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on Ecological Footprint in Africa. **Dr. Sodi Arogundade**

**Discussant:** Mr. Douglas Kigabo Bitonda, UNECA

- Paper 25: Greening manufacturing: Technology Intensity and Carbon dioxide Emissions in Developing Countries. **Dr. Elvis Korku Avenyo**

**Discussant:** Dr Stephen Karingi, UNECA

- Paper 26: Linking Industrialization and Environmental Quality in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does the Environmental Policy Stringency Matter? **Dr. Guivis Zeufack Nkemgha**

**Discussant:** Dr. Bartholomew Armah, UNECA

**Rapporteurs:**

- Dr. Allan Mukungu, UNECA**



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 **Virtual**

**REGISTER**

### 3.2. Climate Change, Growth and Renewable Energy (Barracuda Meeting Room)

**Moderator:** Dr. Adam Elhiraika, Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UNECA

- Paper 27: Does Renewable Energy Really Contribute to the Economic Growth in Africa? **Professor Bruno Emmanuel Ongo Nkoa**

**Discussant:** Dr. Yohannes Hailu, UNECA

- Paper 28: Economic Growth, Renewable and Nonrenewable Electricity Consumption: A Fresh Evidence from a Panel Sample of African countries. **Dr Frank Bannor**

**Discussant :** Dr. Linus Mofor, UNECA

- Paper 29: Designing an African Response to Cross Border Adjustment Mechanisms. **Ms. Ria Roy**

**Discussant :** Dr. Mama Keita, UNECA

- Paper 30: The Relationship between Monetary Policy and Climate Change in Selected African Countries. **Dr. Zitsile Khumalo**

**Discussant:** Dr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, UNECA

- Paper 31: Debt for Climate and Development Swaps in Nigeria. **Ms. Mmakamma Ekeruche**

**Discussant:** Dr. Gamal Ibrahim, UNECA

**Rapporteurs:**

**Ms. Farzana Sharmin, UNECA**

**10:30–11:00 GMT**

**Health break**

**11:00–12:15 GMT**

**Special Event D: Setting Integrated Long-Term Strategy, and National Financing instruments to Enhance Climate Change Planning (AfDB) (Grand Ball Room)**



The development planning process in Africa is generally anchored on National Development Plans (NDP) and Sectoral Development Plans (SDP). NDP and SDP are short-term plans with 5–10-year horizons that lack long-term vision and only



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partially integrate the impact of climate change. Existing financing instruments of NDP and SDP in African states are constrained by limited institutional and regulatory capacities to mobilize climate finance, safeguard investment, and enable private sector participation. While only 2–9% of GDP is spent on environmental degradation and climate-related issues in African states, Africa's adaptation finance need is estimated at US\$331 billion of investment with US\$ 66 billion to be financed by countries' national budgets. The remaining investment gap of US\$265 billion is expected to come from other sources of finance.

The Paris Agreement recommends the development of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LTS) to align development and climate change objectives. LTS offers opportunities for guiding African countries to avoid costly investments in high carbon-intensive technologies, supporting just and equitable transitions, especially for the energy sector, and planning for climate resilience infrastructure.

However, to date, only four African countries have developed and submitted their LTS. Meanwhile, more efforts are being put toward sectoral long-term strategies, with emphasis on Integrated Energy Resource Plans (IERP) for the energy sector without energy sector and investment master plans.

This session will assess approaches to establishing LTS and national climate finance instruments to scale up financing by domestic capital markets of climate actions as well as private sector participation.

The session will draw a roadmap for sustainable climate finance in African states and engage national government officials, climate adaptation and mitigation experts, climate finance experts, and the private sector to address the following questions:

- What are effective approaches for integrated energy resource planning, just energy transition, and financing strategy?
- What are the benefits and barriers to strengthening national financing instruments such as the National Climate Change Fund and National Green Banks to scale up climate action finance?
- How can countries leverage opportunities for private sector finance to support LTS development and financing?

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Al-Hamdou Dorsouma**, Ag. Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank (AfDB)



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### Presenter:

- **Ms. Rita Effah**, Senior Climate Finance Officer and Coordinator of the Africa Climate Change Fund

### Panelists:

- **Prof. Youba Sokona**, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Vice Chair of the World Academy of Science
- **Professor Anthony Nyong**, Regional Director of the Global Center on Adaptation, Africa
- **Hon. Clifford Andre**, CO-Chair of the ACP Climate Change, Sustainable Development Discussions at ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and Chairperson of Defence, Security, and Intelligence; and the Scrutiny of Bill Committees, National Assembly of Seychelles
- **Ms Namita Vikas**, Founder, and Managing Director, auctusESG LLP, a global advisory firm in sustainable finance, ESG and climate risks.

### Rapporteurs:

- **Ms. Mwila Musumali**, AfDB
- **Mr. Constant Adeniyi**, AfDB

**12:15-13:30 GMT**

**Special Event E: Youth Dialogue on  
Climate- Smart Development in Africa  
(AfDB, ECA, & UNDP) (Grand Ball Room)**



Acceleration of Africa's green transition requires integrating youth needs and expectations for successful new climate-smart development pathways. Young people will be the key actors in the ongoing change, both as recipients of the benefits of climate smart development and as actors of change. They will be also the ones to bear the burden of climate change impacts, both in terms of direct impacts on their health and via many indirect effects, ranging from food security to economic impacts.

The Paris Agreement outlines long-term ambitions for climate change response and promotes the engagement of non-state actors, especially young people, in the solution space. Youth campaigners from around the world have forced climate change into the global agenda, where they have campaigned to highlight the need for immediate actions. Their passion demonstrates the need to engage with the youth in finding solutions and shaping the future in line with their visions. Nonetheless, youths from the Global South, especially from Africa, are regularly under-represented in the dialogue on the development of climate change solutions,



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and their voices are often not acknowledged in climate change policy settings.

Against this backdrop, this session will provide a platform that pulls together young people from Africa and the diaspora to share their experiences of climate change, discuss creative solutions with policymakers and develop recommendations for Heads of States. This will include suggesting the development of innovative policies and programs to enable young people to play a leading role in the emerging green economy. Such transformative, one-of-a-kind intellectual and social platform will develop, connect and inspire African youth to deal with climate change as it will bring together the brightest young minds from across the continent and the diaspora to help resolve some of the most pressing climate change and sustainable development issues facing African nations today. The engagement of youth on all fronts of climate change leadership and action is crucial for speeding up the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Thus, the discussions will be guided by the following key issues and questions.

### Key questions:

- How can support be provided to enhance climate change dialogues in public and university campuses, and mainstream climate change into the curricula and programs of African universities and other tertiary institutions?
- How can support be provided to design literacy and vocational training programs for young adults, as well as tailored communication programs to raise their awareness of emerging opportunities related to climate-smart development?
- How can we support and enhance the promotion of an inclusive green transition to address youth unemployment?
- How do we leverage partnership among continental organizations, member states and global partners to support grassroots engagements on climate-smart development and to establish networks, dialogue platforms and discussion forums for African youths to interact and share climate information and knowledge?
- How can national and regional frameworks be developed and supported to promote equity and inter-generational participation and to enhance youth preparedness for national climate response actions?

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Olawale Bakare**, National President, Junior Chamber International, Nigeria



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### Panelists:

- **Ms. Laone Hulela**, Co-founder, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA)
- **Mr. Azhar Muhammad Joomun**, Executive Member, National Youth Council Mauritius, and National Youth Delegate at Commonwealth Youth Council
- **Ms. Pato Kelesitse**, CEO of Sustain 267 in Botswana
- **Moumouni Sanda Bachir**, Responsable du Projet JESAC (Jeunesse Sahélienne pour l'Action Climatique)
- **Ms. Benedicte Munde Kuvuna**, Executive Director of Kuvuna Foundation and founder and CEO of Surprise Tropicale

### Rapporteurs:

- **Ms. Racheal Mubeezi**, AfDB
- **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh**, UNDP
- **Ms. Mercy Wambui**, UNECA

**13:30-14:30 GMT**

### Lunch break

**Special Event F1 (AfDB Lunch Dialogue):  
Five Steps Towards Closing the Climate  
Finance Gap for Africa (Grand Ball Room)**

- Mobilizing for NDCs – implementation of the \$100 bn. pledge
- Improving private sector flows from green finance
- Channelling climate finance from major initiatives (e.g., Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund)
- Internal domestic resource mobilization
- Mobilizing contributions from foundations and philanthropists, impact investors, pension funds, etc.

Tackling climate change is now a matter of urgency. Despite having contributed the least to global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, Africa faces systemic damage to its economies, infrastructure, water and food systems, public health, agriculture, and livelihoods.





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In 2009, the world's wealthier nations pledged at COP-15 to mobilize climate finance funding of US\$100 billion a year by 2020. While this goal was not fully met, at COP-26 in 2021 they reiterated that commitment and pledged to double financing of climate adaptation by 2025 versus 2019 levels, to help close Africa's climate finance gap.

But Africa cannot rely on pledges alone. It must also mobilize private sector investment in climate by providing the right incentives, a conducive environment, and a clear and commercially viable climate adaptation investment portfolio.

Multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Adaptation Fund can help countries in Africa bridge their climate finance gap and generate additional funding via blended finance. This avenue has been underutilized—partly due to inadequate capacity, which must be scaled up.

Foundations, philanthropists, impact investors, and pension funds are another source of raise funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Africa currently receives only about 4 percent of such funding. During COP-26, a coalition of banks, pension funds, and asset managers committed US\$130 trillion toward achieving net zero emission by 2050. And the philanthropic coalition, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, together with eight multilateral and development-finance institutions, committed US\$10 billion, as a start, to support renewable energy across the globe, especially where private capital is still hesitant. Barriers such as an insufficient appropriate investment vehicles and market liquidity; economies of scale issues; regulatory disincentives; and a lack of knowledge, track record, and expertise on such investments and the risks associated with such barriers must be addressed to allow such funds to invest in climate change-related opportunities in Africa.

Domestic resource mobilization is a more sustainable alternative to relying on dwindling donor funds. Indeed, between 2000 and 2018, average tax-to-GDP ratios increased from 12 percent of GDP to 15 percent. Additional opportunities for mobilization include digitalization of tax collection mechanisms and enhanced institutional capacity.

**Key questions:** The discussion should be framed around the following questions:

- What is the role of multilateral banks, especially the African Development Bank, in closing the climate financing gap?
- How can African countries be encouraged to invest more in climate and raise finance domestically for climate change, and design domestic climate policies that help raise revenues.
- What can countries do to minimize or significantly reduce barriers in order to enable philanthropists, pension funds, impact investors, and pension funds to invest in climate-related opportunities?





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- How can developed countries do more to fast-track their international commitments on climate change and intensify climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation in developing countries, particularly in Africa?

### Moderator:

- Dr. Désiré J. M. Vencatathellum**, Director, Resource Mobilization, and External Finance Department, African Development Bank Group Confirmed in-person

### Panelists:

- Prof. Kevin Urama**, Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- Dr. Aloysius Ordu**, Senior Fellow and Director, Africa Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution- Virtual participation
- Dr. Matthieu Boussichas**, Program Manager, Foundation for studies and Research on International Development (FERDI)
- Mr. Mark Watkinson**, Chief Executive Officer, and Executive Director Bank One Limited, Mauritius

### Rapporteurs:

- Mr. Joel Molel**, AfDB

### Special Event F2: Launch of 2022 Visa Openness Index (AfDB) (Grand Ball Room)

In March 2018, 33 African countries signed the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in a bid to promote free movement on the African continent. The Protocol is necessary for the successful social and economic development of African countries. It adopts a rather progressive approach to integration, seeking to liberalize movement in three phases: the right of entry, the right of residence, and the right of establishment. Free movement of Africans throughout the continent will do more than promote integration. It will facilitate growth in intra-African trade and investment, create and promote employment opportunities among young people and raise living standards. This is in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063, on the Africa we want. Despite the inherent benefits, only four countries have ratified the Protocol: Mali, Niger, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The Protocol requires 15 ratifications to enter into force. At the regional economic community (REC) level, however, much progress has been made on free movement, facilitated by regional protocols.





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The African Development Bank and the African Union Commission have been producing the Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI) since 2016. The objective is to help African countries reform their visa policies to promote movement within the continent. A number of countries have made positive reforms in their immigration policies over the years, which saw them improving their rankings on the Index. The Visa openness index initiative supports other continental initiatives such as the Free Movement of Persons Protocol and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). The SAATM, also launched in 2018 seeks to liberalise the African skies. The COVID 19 pandemic saw a number of countries temporarily implementing stringent visa policies to mitigate the spread of the disease. The 7th edition of AVOI tracks progress that countries have made in reforming their visa policies over the seven-year period. Notably, the 2022 edition analyses movement of persons at REC level, which is an innovation. The session will provide participants the opportunity to appreciate the methodology used in developing the index and the policies countries can pursue to improve their rankings.

### Moderator:

- **Prof. Vincent O Nmehielle**, Secretary General, African Development Bank Group

### Presentation:

- **Ms. Zodwa F. Mabuza**, Principal Regional Integration Officer, Regional Integration Coordination Office

### Discussant:

- **Mr. Jean-Guy Afrika**, Acting Director of the Regional Integration Coordination Office

### Rapporteurs:

- **Dr. John Herbert Ainembabazi**, AfDB

**14:30–15:00 GMT**

**Presentation of Best Paper Awards –  
Overall and Youth (Grand Ball Room)**

### Moderator:

- **Dr. Lamin Barrow**, Director General, Nigeria Country Office African Development Bank Group
  - o Presentation of Conference Paper awards – Overall and Young Researchers





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**Closing Ceremony/Remarks (Grand Ball Room)**

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Gerard Pascal Bussier**, Executive Director, African Development Bank Group

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Gerard Pascal Bussier**, Executive Director, African Development Bank Group

### Speakers:

- **Prof. Kevin Urama**, Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President, African Development Bank Group (AfDB) **(10 min.)**
- **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) **(10 min.)**
- **Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**, Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa **(10 min.)**

### Closing Remarks:

- **Dr. The Hon. Renganaden Padayachy**, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development **(10 min.)**

### Rapporteurs:

- **Dr. Njeri Wabiri**, AfDB
- **Mr. Douglas Kigabo Bitonda**, UNECA
- **Dr. El Hadji Fall**, UNDP