

**ECA Side-event: Making the sovereign of the Congo Basin Climate
Commission the net exporter of premium carbon credits**

Opening remarks by Mr. Claver Gatete, USG, ES, ECA

CBCC Pavilion, 4 December 2023, 13:00-14:00

Distinguished Ministers

Distinguished panelists

UN colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for being here today.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the remarkable work led by H.E. Minister Arlette Sundan-Naunolt in spearheading the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CBCC). Her efforts have been particularly commendable in conserving the biodiversity ecosystems and tropical forests in the Congo Basin.

The forests in the Basin were known in the past to contain one of the top two largest carbon sinks in the world. But with its newly discovered peatlands that absorbs more carbon than forests, the Basin is increasingly considered by scientists to contain the largest carbon sink in the world. However, the countries that host the Basin and its contours (the CBCC member countries) do not receive fair

compensation for their conservation efforts to protect these valuable ecosystems.

Key messages

- Member States in the Congo Climate Basin Commission should connect their national registries to the CBCC Carbon Registry to improve such key market attributes as integration, harmonization, transparency, credibility, predictability that broadly are referred to as market integrity. States without registries and technical capacities can also use the CBCC Registry to obtain carbon credits for their climate mitigation initiatives at lower marginal costs.
- We encourage CCBC member States to work together (I mean to cooperate as recommended by the Paris Agreement) to increase the monetary and other values of carbon, leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other available and relevant administrative, legal, and regulatory mechanisms resources. To achieve their climate action plans and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they should cooperate

and agree on a minimum price for carbon that is reasonable, achievable and can attract investors. ~~and collaborate on ideas and strategies to.~~

- Cooperation, as strongly recommended by the Paris Agreement, ~~Collaboration~~ is key for CBCC countries to obtain credits that can be traded through bilateral agreements between countries, market exchanges and other innovative mechanisms in the compliance markets. By forming a coalition and working together with global North countries, they can increase their chances of success. The European Union Emission Trading System is an important regional compliance market that offers promising returns on investment in climate mitigation. In 2022, the average price for a ton of carbon in this market was about US\$ 80, making it a viable option for CBCC countries to secure a sustainable future.
- Another regional compliance market worth considering is the U.S. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
- As we strive towards a sustainable future, it's important that sovereigns have access to a wider range of markets beyond voluntary ones where CO2 prices are currently limited to US\$ 3-5 per ton in 2022. This would enable them to have a greater

impact in reducing carbon emissions and contribute towards building a greener planet for future generations.

- ECA is committed to developing CBCC member countries' capacity in carbon accounting, monitoring, verification, and certification to effectively use their CBCC registry allowing them to establish [an integrated and high-integrity regional market](#). We together with our partners, AU, our sister UN agencies , Afreximbank and other development partners are ready to support you in becoming **net exporters of premium carbon credits**.