



AFRICA DAY AT COP28

Theme: *Scaling up Financing for Climate Action and Green Growth in Africa*

Date: 2 December 2023
Time: 15:30 -18:30
Venue: Africa Pavilion, Blue Zone

1. Background and Context

In 2009, AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government established the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to set the agenda for Africa's engagement in the global climate change negotiations through the provision of political directive and oversight on the work of the Ministers of Environment and the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change. The Key Messages adopted by the CAHOSCC on behalf of the African Union serve as the basis for Africa's common negotiating position at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and thus facilitate Africa to speak with one voice at the COPs.

The **African Pavilion** and **Africa Day** organized at the various COPs have provided a platform for the AU to amplify Africa's voice at the UNFCCC COPs and the space for dialogue Africa's challenges, opportunities and responses to Climate Change.

The 2023 edition of Africa Day, on the theme of "**Scaling up Financing for Climate Action and Green Growth in Africa**" builds on insights and outcomes from the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) that was convened by the African Union and hosted by H.E. President William Samoei Ruto in September 2023 under the theme "Driving **Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World**". In this regard, Africa Day at COP28 will provide a platform for Africa to pitch a strong case for leveraging investment capital from supporting business and ecosystems to leapfrogging to climate-compatible growth for sustainable development.

African countries have submitted very ambitious nationally determined contributions to climate action (NDCs), requiring close to USD 3 trillion to implement. Yet climate finance flows to the continent remain very inadequate. For example, the 2022 Adaptation Gap Report shows that developing countries received only USD 29 billion of public finance flows

for adaptation, with Africa receiving USD 11.4 billion in 2020, with the most vulnerable countries receiving the least climate adaptation finance flows. The African Group of Negotiators on climate change (AGN) estimates that Africa needs USD 65 - 86.5 billion per year for adaptation alone up to 2030. In terms of investments flows for clean energy, Africa has received only USD 60 billion (less than 2%) of the USD 3 trillion invested in clean energy globally over the last decade. Yet, African countries are being affected the most by the adverse impacts of climate change, losing on average 5% of GDP per year, and up to 15% in some cases, while some countries are spending up to 9% of their budgets unplanned to deal with extreme weather events. Mozambique, for example, lost the equivalent of about 15% of its GDP as a result of the impact of Cyclone Idai. Furthermore, the continent has suffered huge economic impacts arising from multiple crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The economic shocks from these crises have resulted in huge fiscal constraints and deficits, further limiting the availability of resources to invest in climate action.

However, the continent is endowed with a resourceful and youthful population, abundant arable land and natural resources, including abundant renewable energy resources and 30% of critical minerals for the global drive to net zero and clean energy transition. For example, the DRC produces 70% of the world's total cobalt, the DRC and Zambia together supply 10% of global copper, while Mozambique and Madagascar hold significant reserves of graphite and nickel, respectively. Harnessing this enormous potential by capitalizing on green growth opportunities will be key to shaping Africa's attainment of the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Doing so will require proactive collective continental efforts leveraging the continent's own resources, together with effective partnerships with the broader international community to address the impacts climate change and tackle barriers to Africa's transition to resilient development.

The continent has been pro-active in defining and implementing response measures, including the recently adopted African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032, and the continental Green Recovery Action Plan (2021-2027). The continent's Green Recovery Action Plan has five key areas: (i) climate finance, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding, (ii) supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and national Just Transition programmes, (iii) nature-based solutions and focus on biodiversity through work on sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism, (iv) resilient agriculture, by focusing on inclusive economic development and green jobs, and (v) green and resilient cities, including a focus on water (flooding and water resources) and enhancing information, communication, and technology.

Furthermore, the Nairobi Declaration of Heads of State of African countries resulting from the African Climate Summit identifies a critical agenda for collective action on climate change at the continental and global levels, including: urgency by all countries to reduce emissions and accelerate decarbonization, in line with the fundamental principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; fulfilment of climate finance commitments of developed countries; food security; climate positive investments; operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund; agreement on a global goal on adaptation; policies, regulations and incentives for attracting local, regional and global investments in

inclusive green growth; green industrialization and creation of decent jobs; just and inclusive transitions; leveraging the AfCFTA for green transitions; biodiversity action; resilient infrastructure; early warning and action systems for adaptation and resilience; among others. The Declaration also has a call action that includes, among others: increasing Africa's renewable power capacity to 300 gigawatts by 2030; focus processing of Africa's raw materials in the continent; access to environmentally sound technologies; enhanced trade; enhance Africa's share of carbon markets; transformation of the multilateral financial architecture; proposal for global carbon taxation regime; and establishment of the new financing architecture responsive to Africa's needs.

This was further reinforced by the call to elevate the Africa Single Energy Market (AfSEM) as a flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063 and the adoption of the Continental Power Systems Master Plan (CMP) in September 2023 at the AU Ministerial Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental, and Interregional Infrastructure and Energy (STC-TTIE). The CMP outlines an ambitious plan to integrate the power systems in Africa to meet the continent's generation and transmission network requirements up to 2040 of 1200GW of which 60% is from renewable energy. The energy projects within the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) also aim to add additional 54 GW of hydropower capacity by 2040. The AUC is currently accelerating programmes on innovative solutions to low carbon and climate resilient energy development including green hydrogen, energy efficiency, geothermal energy and digitalisation of the energy sector.

In parallel, the African Union Commission, African Development Bank and Africa50, with other partners launched the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA), during COP27. AGIA is an execution-led solution that seeks to accelerate Africa's just and equitable transition to Net-Zero and bridge the continent's infrastructure gap in a low carbon and climate resilient manner, extensively leveraging the private sector. AGIA's core objective is to prepare and to develop a pipeline of bankable green projects and to catalyse private sector funding for greening Africa's infrastructure. To achieve this goal, AGIA is raising \$500 million early-stage blended capital to unlock a \$10 billion pipeline of bankable green infrastructure projects.

2. Objective

Africa Day is a key feature of Africa's presence and participation at the various COPs. Africa Day is a platform that brings together African Heads of State and Government, principals of regional institutions, ministers, researchers, leaders in the private sector and financial institutions, civil society organizations, development partners and various other stakeholders to (i) share common concerns and re-iterate Africa's positions and requirements for a successful COP, (ii) highlight key positions to strengthen Africa's negotiations at the COP, (iii) dialogue and propose ways forward on key issues relating to climate change and Africa's long term development challenges, (iv) announce and/or sign key initiatives to accelerate the continent's universal access to energy and transition to net zero.

The deliberations at Africa Day will thus focus on building from the above processes to explore ways of mobilizing the close to USD 3 trillion needed to implement Africa's NDCs. In particular, discussions will focus on leveraging domestic resource mobilization and boosting foreign direct investments in support of energy transition and deployment of Africa's abundant renewable energy resources; resilient agriculture and food systems; greening the AfCFTA; the AfSEM/CMP; transformation of critical minerals for batteries and electric vehicles value chains in Africa; and climate change adaptation and resilience and highlight key flagships on resilience - The Great Green Wall Initiative.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR AFRICA DAY

1. High-level Opening

Session Moderator: H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)

Opening statements (16H00-16H30)

- H.E Claver Gatete, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- H.E Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank
- H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya & Coordinator of CAHOSCC (Keynote address)
- H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Republic of Comoros & Chairperson, African Union (Official Opening)

Presidential Panel Session on the Great Green Wall (16H30-17H00)

Signing ceremony for the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA) 17H00-17H30

2. Ministerial Session (17H30-18H30)

Moderator: H.E. Prof Benedict Oramah, President, African Export-Import Bank (TBC)

- Status of the Climate Negotiations
- Energy Transition and Renewable Energy
- Climate Finance
- Adaptation and Resilience
- Driving Ambition - Global Stocktake
- Sustainable Trade
- Outcomes of Africa Climate Summit and CCDA-XI

Ministers, Executive Secretaries of RECs and Pan African Parliament to make interventions on the thematic areas listed above

3. Session: Cocktail Reception hosted by AUC (18H30 - 19H30)

Closing and Vote of Thanks - UNECA, AFDB, AUC