



27 February to 2 March 2023
NIAMEY, NIGER

Ninth session of the
Africa Regional
Forum on Sustainable
Development

ARFSD-9 Newsletter

27 February-2 March 2023

9th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

African-led solutions key to achieving SDGs, says UN's Amina Mohammed



Photo UNECA

It is time for Africa to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, said Amina Mohammed, calling for greater leadership, commitment and investment in achieving the SDGs.

"We have a common understanding that through Africa-led solutions born on the African soil we can change course and rise to the challenge of achieving Agenda 2063 and the SDGs," Ms. Mohamed told delegates at the ARFSD

"World leaders must set clear ambitions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 and must do this by making investments in Africa, investment in our economies, investment in our people especially our women and youth."

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/african-led-solutions-key-to-achieving-sdgs,-says-un's-amina-mohammed>

9ème FRADD : Au Niger, l'Afrique cherche les pistes et solutions pour réduire la pauvreté et accélérer l'atteinte des ODD d'ici 2030



Photo UNECA

Il s'agit pour l'Afrique et ses partenaires, d'accélérer la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du développement durable et de l'agenda 2030 et de s'engager à la relance verte et inclusive, fondée sur des chaînes de valeurs durables.

En 2022, on dénombre 18 millions de nouveaux pauvres, principalement en raison de la crise en Ukraine et de l'impact généralisé de la pandémie en Afrique. Le

PIB africain devrait décélérer en 2023 dans un environnement mondial instable.

« A Niamey, l'Afrique au-delà du statut quo, doit trouver un nouveau souffle dans cette ère de crises multiples. Dans l'ensemble, les effets négatifs combinés des pressions inflationnistes, de la dépréciation des monnaies, de la perturbation de la demande et des chaînes d'approvisionnement, de la détérioration des

termes de l'échange, de la hausse du coût des emprunts et des phénomènes météorologiques défavorables ont entraîné un écart de production de 2,4 % pour l'Afrique par rapport à la production réelle prévue avant la pandémie. Cette année, nous revisitons les objectifs de développement durable 6, 7, 9, 11 et 17 », a indiqué M. Antonio Pedro, le Secrétaire Exécutif intérimaire de la CEA.

Read more <https://horizon-news.net/index.php/a-l-international/item/1344-9eme-fradd-au-niger-l-afrigue-cherche-les-pistes-et-solutions-pour-reduire-la-pauvrete-et-accelerer-l-atteinte-des-odd-d-ici-2030>



“ Nous devons tous nous convaincre d'une évidence ; la réalisation de réels progrès dans la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 des Nations Unies et de l'agenda 2063 de l'Union Africaine passe nécessairement par ces efforts qui mettront l'accent sur la promotion d'un monde juste, fondé sur des droits équitables et inclusifs de nature à promouvoir une croissance économique inclusive, la protection de l'environnement et la prise en charge des intérêts des générations futures ”

– Mohamed Bazoum, Président de la République du Niger

Photo UNECA

FRADD 9 : « La transformation structurelle reste l'un des défis majeurs des ODD avec l'industrialisation en Afrique », dit Antonio Pedro

Dans le cadre du 9ème Forum Régional Africain pour le Développement Durable (FRADD) qui se déroule du 28 février au 02 mars 2023 à Niamey (Niger), Antonio Pedro, le Secrétaire Exécutif par intérim de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique (CEA) a échangé avec les professionnels de la presse le 1er mars 2023.

L'occasion pour lui de présenter les enjeux liés à l'atteinte des Objectifs de

Développement Durable (ODD) d'ici 2030 et les défis pour l'Afrique.

Pour le Secrétaire Exécutif par intérim de la CEA, la transformation structurelle des économies est l'une des cinq prévisions stratégiques pour atteindre les ODD directement alignés sur l'industrialisation inclusive et durable. La transformation structurelle reste l'un des défis majeurs des pays du Sahel avec l'industrialisation comme principal canal pour y parvenir.



Photo UNECA

Read more <https://horizon-news.net/index.php/a-i-international/item/1348-fradd-9-la-transformation-structurelle-reste-l-un-des-defis-majeurs-des-odd-avec-l-industrialisation-en-afrigue-dixit-antonio-pedro>

UN Urges \$500bn support as African countries face debt crisis

African countries need a breakthrough on access to finance to upscale urgently required investments, according to the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed.

Ms Mohammed indicated that the financing gap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and deliver climate resilience continue to widen.

She said about 43 percent of the African nations were in or near debt distress, mostly driven by external factors beyond their control. This, she said, was not acceptable.

In her remarks during the official opening of the 9th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Niamey, Niger, she reiterated the UN Secretary General's call on the G20 to unlock an SDG stimulus of at least US\$500 billion annually for developing countries.



Photo UNECA

“Putting that fire out demands equality in our support not hypocrisy and broken promise.

Read more... https://www.zambiamonitor.com/forty-three-percent-african-countries-in-debt-crisis-uns-mohammed-calls-for-500bn-support-at-niamey-summit/#.Y_4WObhJn30.whatsapp



We should all be convinced that the realization of real progress on the Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda must happen through the promotion of a fair planet which is inclusive to have economic growth and the protection of the environment

President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum



“Even in the best case scenario where more money is raised by African countries themselves, we still need support from outside the continent and we need that investment to come in large scale. Less than 2% of global investments in renewable energy have happened in Africa over the last two decades. Accelerating investments in energy will bring value for the investor and it will transforms Africa.”

*Jean-Paul Adam,
Director, Technology ,Climate Change & Natural Resources Management Division, ECA*



“There is power in knowledge sharing and access to information as a development catalyst to realise the SDGs.”

*Irene Onyancha
Chief of Knowledge Management Services, ECA*



Un nouvel engagement, l'investissement nécessaire pour atteindre les ODD en Afrique



Photo: Shutterstock

L'Afrique a besoin d'un changement de paradigme pour assurer le développement durable en prenant un nouvel engagement et en augmentant les investissements afin de réaliser les ODD, exhorte la Secrétaire exécutive adjointe et Économiste en chef de la Commission

économique pour l'Afrique, Hanan Morsy aux États africains.

« Une grande partie de notre quête pour atteindre les ODD, c'est que nous avons besoin d'un nouveau paradigme, nous devons accélérer l'action et nous devons assurer une reprise verte et inclusive

après les effets des crises multiples, qui ont assailli le monde », a déclaré Mme Morsy dans son discours de clôture au Forum africain pour le développement durable 2023 (FRADD) qui s'est terminé le 2 mars à Niamey, au Niger.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/fr/stories/un-nouvel-engagement,-l'investissement-nécessaire-pour-atteindre-les-odd-en-afric>

ECA launches Origin Initiative for East African region

Origin Initiative, a physical hub in East Africa has been launched by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at the 5th African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum 2023 in Niemey, Niger.

The initiative aims to provide guidance for implementing original research and innovation labs, and organizational arrangements for entrepreneurial universities in Africa.

The Origin Initiative was introduced by former executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe, who noted - in an earlier statement - that the term "Origin" was chosen because problems in any location start at their source or "origin," and solutions should also be developed in that same location by understanding the problem's nature and context. Consequently, unique issues necessitate creative solutions that are based on the region's culture and values



Photo UNECA

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-launches-origin-initiative-for-east-african-region>

Energy transition: Africa must bridge technological gap, step up dialogue around innovation

"Our current challenge is to get Heads of State to adopt a joint, green hydrogen policy by the end of this year," said Francis Sempore, Executive Director of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Monday 27 February 2023 in Niamey (Niger).

"Green hydrogen in West Africa may sound utopian now, but so did the ECOW-

AS leaders' decision to adopt a regional policy on renewable energy in 2013. Yet it has become unthinkable for a country not to have solar energy in its energy mix," he added.

The case of Niger, where the conference was held, is a stark illustration of the contradictions West Africa and the rest of the continent are experiencing today

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/energy-transition-africa-must-bridge-technological-gap,-step-up-dialogue-around-innovation>



Photo: Shutterstock



“ 600 million Africans currently do not have access to energy. Connecting those 600 million Africans will be one of the biggest boosts to economic productivity in Africa.

Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change & Natural Resources Management Division, ECA



Photo UNECA



Photo UNECA

إفريقيا ستحصل على حوالي 133 مليار دولار سنوياً إذا قامت بتصنيع المواد الخام على أرضها مسؤول أمريكي : مصر وجنوب إفريقيا في مقدمة الدول التي تتحرك نحو الاقتصاد الأخضر

نيلامي- علياء أبوشيبة

سوق الكربون هو سوق افتراضي يعبر عن نظام تجاري يمكن من خلاله الدول شراء أو بيع وحدات من إنبعاثات الاحتباس الحراري في محاولة لالتزام بالحدود الوطنية المسموح بها للإنبعاثات، وذلك بمحض بروتوكول كيوتو أو اتفاقيات أخرى، مثل الاتفاقيات الموقعة في ما بين دول الاتحاد الأوروبي، ومحلياً أعلن رئيس الوزراء الدكتور مصطفى مدبولي عن إطلاقه في مؤتمر المناخ COP27، "بوابة روزال يوسف" إنعقدت جان بول أدم مدير قسم التكنولوجيا وتغير المناخ وإدارة الموارد الطبيعية ، اللجنة الاقتصادية لأفريقيا (ECA) خلال مشاركته في الدورة التاسعة للمنتدى الإقليمي الإفريقي للتنمية المستدامة (ARFSD) والتي تم تنظيمها في العاصمة التايبريرية نيامي، وذلك للحديث في هذه موضوعات منها مستقبل سوق الكربون في القارة الإفريقية وكيف يمكن زيادة استخدامات الطاقة النظيفة والحصول على تعويضات للدول المتضررة نتيجة التغير المناخي.

تقبل سوق الكربون في إفريقيا وكيف يمكن أن تكون حل ساعدة على التكيف مع تغير المناخ في إفريقيا؟

ذلك تقدم في إطار وضع سعر عالمي للكربون، وهو أمر جابي لأننا نعتقد أن الدول الإفريقية يمكنها الاستفادة من سوق العالمية القوية للكربون، بالإضافة إلى ذلك تعمل كلة البيئة الأوروبية وشركاء آخرين في الأمم المتحدة لدعم الدول الإفريقية التي ترغب في الوصول إلى السوق طوعي، وبناء القدرة لديهم بحيث يكون هناك فهم كافية مل هذا السوق، وفي المنتدى الإقليمي الإفريقي الأخير، ناقبقيع مذكرة تفاهم مع لجنة المناخ في الكونغو لإنشاء جل إقليمي لرصدة الكربون؛ لذلك فهي تسمح لجميع بلدان في تلك المنطقة بتسجيل أرصدة الكربون في السجل العالمي

<https://bit.ly/3mnuGzi>

“The Sahel exemplifies the tragedy of human-induced impacts of climate change.. the continued use of hydrocarbons by developed countries at the expense of African people undermines the ability of African countries to meet the SDGs and create the Africa we want

- Louise Aubin, UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator in Niger



Taking stock of progress on SDG implementation

African countries should learn from the experience of each other including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, says Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, ECA, Hanan Morsy

Ms Morsy was speaking at a plenary round-table panel on national and sub-national actions and reviews to speed up and scale up implementation in Africa. The panel discussion was on voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and peer learning to strengthen country-level interventions at the ongoing 9th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-9) in Niamey, Niger.

"Countries should ensure the engagement of young people as key stakeholders in voluntary local and national reviews (VNRs & VLRs)," said Ms Morsy.

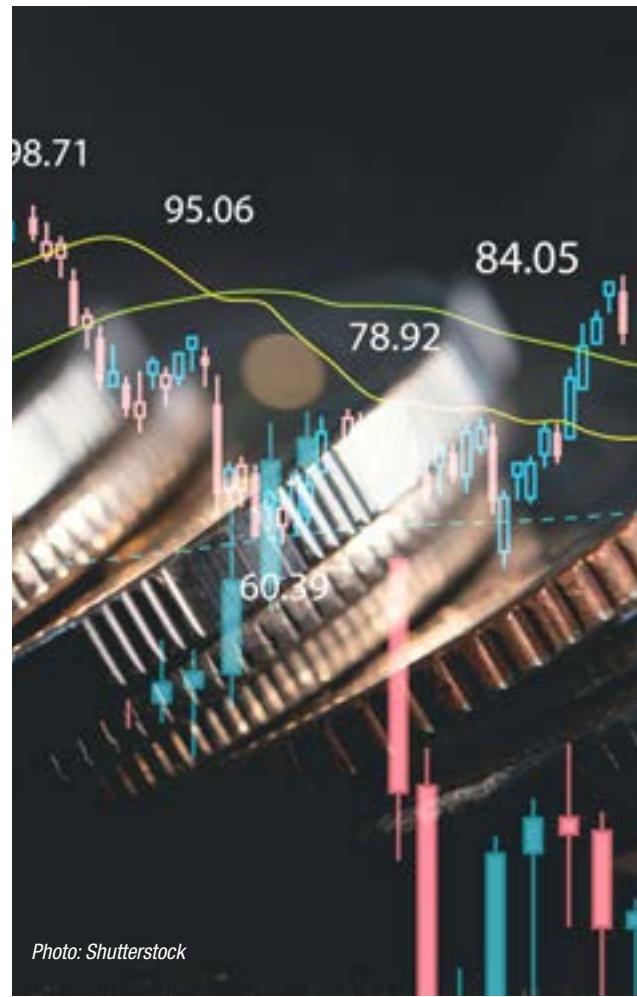


Photo UNECA

VNRs, she said, seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and mobilize multi-stakeholder support and

partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Read more...<https://www.uneca.org/stories/taking-stock-of-progress-on-sdg-implementation>



“ ARFSD-9 discussions were quite honest on the need for us to mobilise more domestic resources and not depend only on outside resources. There needs to be a strong policy framework. It's difficult to attract investments if the regulatory environment is not right.

*Jean-Paul Adam,
Director, Technology ,Climate Change &
Natural Resources Management Division, ECA*

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Experts call for renewed focus on sustainable development goals in Africa



Photo UNECA

A concerted re-focus on sustainable development goals is needed in order to meet the aspirations of the Agenda 2030 and Africa's transformation Agenda 2063, according to key speakers at the regional preparatory workshop for African voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews (VNR) workshop in Niemey, Niger.

"We have seen how the effects of the pandemic and war in Ukraine have derailed progress that had been made.

State budgets for social policy, environmental action and economic development are threatened by the tightening of financial resources, just at the moment when these interventions are needed the most," said Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The VNR workshop was held as a side event ahead of the 9th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

(ARFSD) scheduled to run from 28 February to 2 March in Niamey, Niger. It was organized by the ECA with the support of the African Union, UN-Habitat, UNDESA, UCLG Africa and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA)

Ms Morsy said, the year 2023 represents the mid-way point towards the global 2030 Agenda, and the end of the first ten-year implementation of the regional Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/experts-call-for-renewed-focus-on-sustainable-development-goals-in-africa>

How is Africa doing on SDGs? A conversation with ECA's Adam Elhiraika

During the 9th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (AFRSD-9) in Niamey, Niger, the ECA media team had the opportunity to interview Adam Elhiraika, ECA's Director of Macroeconomic Policy Division. The purpose of the interview was to gain more insight into Africa's progress with regards to the implementation of the SDGs.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/how-is-africa-doing-on-sdgs%3F-a-conversation-with-eca's-adam-elhiraika>



Photo UNECA



Key actions to accelerate SDG 9 implementation

The 9th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Niamey from 28 February to 2 March featured a session to discuss progress, challenges, opportunities, and priority actions needed to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9).

The session called for increased efforts to help firms increase exports, attract foreign direct investment, and facilitate technology transfer. Participants also urged countries to build resilient regional value chains to develop productive and competitive economies that can take full advantage of the opportunities to implement the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/key-actions-to-accelerate-sdg-9-implementation>



Photo UNECA



“ It is urgent to act and ensure that we are encouraging and valuing scientific solutions in dealing with the impacts of climate change

- Garama Saratou Rabiu Inoussa,
Minister for the Environment and for
Combating Desertification, Niger

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Photo UNECA

Africa's sustainable growth hinges on science, technology, and innovation

Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas requires leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation (STI) to fight multidimensional vulnerabilities so Africa can move from crisis to sustainable development.

During a session on STI at the Ninth African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, experts emphasised the crucial role of STI as a key driver and enabler for ensuring economic growth, improving well-being, mitigating the effects of climate change, and safeguarding the environment.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/africa-s-sustainable-growth-hinges-on-science,-technology,-and-innovation>



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“ We need Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies that are integrated and linked to national and regional development plans. We must also invest in human capital. That means promoting STEM discipline, not only at university level, but starting at a very young age ”

Lidia Arthur Brito, Regional Director for Southern Africa, UNESCO

Young African girls innovating to tackle climate change



More than 50 young women engineers and innovators across the continent have developed technologies to fight climate change and build resilience, Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) Acting Executive Secretary, Antonio Pedro has revealed.

Under the initiative' Connected African Girls Coding Camp and Climate

Change Adaptation Hackathon', young engineers and innovators have devised creative projects that incorporated emerging technologies to fight climate change and build resilience across the continent.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/young-african-girls-innovating-to-tackle-climate-change>



Mobilizing finance for a just transition, inclusive recovery through innovative partnerships

Addressing the climate crisis and achieving the goals of the historic Paris Agreement require transitioning to a just net-zero economy for which finance is a major lever.

It is against this backdrop that a high-level panel was organized at the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to explore how to mobilize finance for a just transition and achieve an

inclusive recovery as the financing agenda for a just transition moved into a new phase with the announcement at COP27 by richer nations to pay for loss and damage to accelerate the pace towards inclusive growth as we build back better.

A lot has changed since the United Nations charted a reasonable and sustainable route for our people and planet in 2015 to achieve inclusive growth. The ef-

fects of climate change, COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine are remaking societies and worsening their economic outlook. In Africa, meeting the goals for Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063 and adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change and the fallouts of the pandemic require access to finance to deliver an inclusive recovery to a sustainable economy.

Read more... <https://www.uneca.org/stories/mobilizing-finance-for-a-just-transition,-inclusive-recovery-through-innovative-partnerships>



Thierry H. AMOUSSOUGBO
Head, E-learning & Knowledge Management Division
African Institute for Economic Development & Planning, ECA



The African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA) is the framework under which we can ensure an African owned transformation. Business as usual will not work for Africa

- Antonio Pedro,
Acting Executive Secretary, ECA

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There is a need for us to form alliances and collaborate in order to avoid duplication, and achieve our objectives.

Mandry Ntshani
ARFSD-9 delegate (South Africa)

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ARFSD Video Playlist



ARFSD2023

ECA_Official Video Channel - 1 / 23

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 1:06

ECA's Jean Paul Adam sets tone for...
ECA_Official Video Chan...

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ECA's Jean Paul Adam sets tone for ARFSD2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLZ-TazwJrl&list=PLcfKplk33JTiHKcwk1uEzkd3oF3wNTmJ>

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