

## Speaker Briefing: Towards COP27: African Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs

**Your session title:** Digital transformations

### Session logistics:

- **When:** 3rd August, 11am-13.00pm (local time, Ethiopia)
- **Where:** virtual and in-person (at United Nations Conference Centre, UNECA complex, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - room to be confirmed on site).
- **Virtual speaker dial-in:** you will be sent a zoom link and be made a panellist.
- **Session format:** presentations of three projects and panel discussion.

**Additional information:**

- **Full event agenda:** [here](#)
- **Event page:** <https://tinyurl.com/2md5yvf>
- Useful information for in-person speakers:  
<https://www.uneca.org/united-nations-conference-centre-addis-ababa-uncc-aa/information-participants>

## Preparation before your session

- **Please register** for the event and you are welcome to listen to other sessions:
  - In-person: <https://www.uneca.org/content/self-sponsored-participant-registration>
  - Virtual: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91512345678?pwd=Q1ZlYldvQWpZbWtH9DlGdDh4X1ZpFjZuZ5pt6S0f>
- **Pre-reading:** we will provide you with information on the projects that will be presented at the session in advance and request you familiarise yourself with this.
- **Speaker briefing call:** we do not have a speaker briefing call, but please do contact your session contact points with questions.

### Purpose of the regional forums:

- Your session is part of a three-day Africa regional forum, which is part of a regional forum series we are running in the lead up to COP27.
- The forums aim to bring together policymakers and the private sector, particularly private finance, and broader stakeholders to work together more closely on scaling-up capital to emerging markets and developing economies.
- The forums have a particular focus on projects rooted in regional priorities and a compendium of projects will be available at COP27.

- The target audience for the forums and your session include public and private financial institutions, asset owners, asset managers, banks, insurers, development banks, governments and policymakers, private enterprises and innovators seeking funding. The audience includes financial institutions in the Race to Zero and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

#### **Your session objectives:**

- This session aims to inspire the target audience to accelerate financing of suitable projects in Africa, with a focus on digital transformations.
- It will enhance the discourse on the need for financing for these key priorities through sharing examples of potential projects for the continent's urban areas.
- It will also unpack key challenges that new initiatives/projects and financiers face and how these can be overcome.

#### **Session speakers:**

Session chair: Anne-Rachel Inee, Regional Director, ITU (in-person)

Project presentations:

- Mr. Didier Nkurikiyimfura, Director Strategy, Smart Africa (virtual)

Response leads:

- AFC - individual tbc
- MTN - individual tbc.
- Oliver Phillips, Associate Director, Sustainable Finance, Standard Chartered Bank - tbc

**Session contact points (for questions on the session):** [seck8@un.org](mailto:seck8@un.org) and [sagarikachatterjee@climatechampions.team](mailto:sagarikachatterjee@climatechampions.team)

#### **Content - background for your session:**

- Over the past two decades African development has been fuelled by the rampant growth of digital technologies.
- In fostering digital development in the continent, massive investment in infrastructure is taking place and still needed, to support data centres, 5G, and cybersecurity.
- Considering the world's climate crisis and its commitment to climate change, Africa should use greener ICT to reduce networks' overall carbon intensity.
- As stipulated by its Digital Transformation Strategy, Africa is geared to invest in green ICT network to slash carbon emissions while attaining the digital development demands.

**Session flow (90 minutes in total, with 5 minutes buffer time)**

Section and timing	Session chair	Speaker	Suggested content
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Welcome and Introduction  10 minutes	Anne-Rachel Inee, ITU		Introduction to speakers. Session background and purpose.
Project presentations			
Project presentation  10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Mr. Didier Nkurikiyimfura, Director Strategy, Smart Africa	Fund rationale and key information.
Project presentation  10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	[ADD IN FUND NAME AND INDIVIDUAL SPEAKER NAME]	Fund rationale and key information.
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Response leads:			
5 minutes	The session chair will ask the speaker: What work do you have underway in Africa and on this topic? What are your initial reflections on the projects?	[ADD IN SPEAKER NAME AND PRIVATE FINANCE/OTHER ORGANISATION NAME]	Brief background on your firm and work in the area; reflections on the projects - theme/suitability; and what you look for in suitable projects and investments.

5 minutes	The session chair will ask the speaker: What work do you have underway in Africa and on this topic? What are your initial reflections on the projects?	[ADD IN SPEAKER NAME AND PRIVATE FINANCE/OTHER ORGANISATION NAME]	
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Questions for all speakers/moderated audience Q&A  20 minutes	The session chair could ask each presenter/response lead: <i>What is needed to get these potential projects over the line to financiers? What do you (project presenters) need from financiers? Who needs to take what action towards COP27 and beyond?</i>	[Any speaker]	[Not scripted]
Wrap-up and conclusion  5 minutes	The session chair will highlight key takeaways and call to action for next steps. Please highlight that a compendium of projects will be released towards COP27.	5 minutes	