

## In Nairobi, ECA's Antonio Pedro calls on Africa to accelerate climate action and ensure a just transition



Photo: UNECA

Africa, which has suffered climate change impacts the most, must accelerate climate action through effective strategies to ensure a just transition, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Acting Executive Secretary, Antonio Pedro has challenged leaders.

“The lack of the right global enabling environment and strong global action on climate would lead to dire consequences for all of us,” Mr. Pedro, said, in closing the three-day 11th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA), which concluded with technical inputs for the 4-6 September Africa Climate Summit.

Reiterating that without effective strategies at country level and governments not taking responsibility for converting the immense potential of the continent into tangible benefits for its people, Mr. Pedro said Africa risks being left behind in a world undergoing an unjust transition.

“There is a potential for a horrific scenario where the world fails to reduce emissions to avert the dire projections made by climate scientists,” said Mr. Pedro, adding that, “Yet, even in the event of successful emissions reduction, there could be a troubling outcome: an unjust transition. This scenario would imply that planetary systems are saved on terms that serve today’s elites, while extreme poverty is allowed to persist.”

He underscored that the CCDA reaffirmed its pivotal role as a forum for the continent to identify opportunities and solutions in the face of climate and development crises.

Mr. Pedro described the 2023 CCDA as a milestone which has set the tone for the African Climate Summit which seeks to address the increasing exposure to climate change and its associated costs particularly in Africa. The Summit (4-6 Sept 2023) will serve as a platform to inform, frame, and influence commitments, pledges, and

*Continue on page 3*

## ClimDev-Africa second phase launched

The second phase of the ClimDev-Africa programme was launched on the sidelines of the Africa Climate Summit and the Africa Climate Week in Nairobi, Kenya.

ClimDev-Africa is a joint initiative implemented through a partnership of the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It is mandated at the highest level by the African Heads of State and Government with the objective of creating a solid foundation for Africa's response to climate change.

The launch of the new phase sought to build awareness of the objectives, plans and resource projections for the implementation of the programme. More than 100 participants from African governments, climate research community, academia, civil society, as well as the youth attended. Also in attendance were the Ethiopian minister responsible for the environment and Director-General of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, H.E. Getahun Garede Wodaje, ECA acting Executive Secretary, Antonio Pedro, AfDB Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, Anthony Nyong and AUC Director for Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy Directorate, Harsen Nyambe.

Partner institutions represented included SIDA, WMO, UNEP, GCF, PACJA, ACMAD, AICCRA and UCLG.

Speakers underscored the significance of the ClimDev-Africa phase II strategic framework, which recognizes that Africa's economic growth is dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, and that the post 2015 development trajectory requires inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient growth.

ClimDev-Africa was launched in 2011 with the mandate to address the gaps in the observational records of past, current and future climate variations. It envisions a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development with a mission to strengthen the integration of climate action in development policy, planning and programming in African countries, regions and communities. This is achieved through investments in climate information services, disaster risk action, research and policy analyses, knowledge frameworks and partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society and communities.

Despite a slow start, the first phase of the ClimDev-Africa gained the confidence of countries, RECs and other stakeholders as a partner of choice for climate information and services, policy, advocacy for mainstreaming climate change into development planning. It increased the



*Climdev-Africa Launch of Phase 2. Photo: UNECA*

confidence of African institutions to engage in the global climate governance framework.

The success of the programme created continuous engagement with the decision-making community and capitalized on strategic and operational opportunities in ClimDev-Africa Phase I. It also harnessed the comparative advantage of emerging initiatives such as the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) and Climate, Energy, Water Systems (CLEWs) to provide climate information services in Africa.

The ClimDev-Africa Phase II programme key areas of intervention include scaling up investments in observation and early warning infrastructure and creating the enabling environment for climate information and services to be widely available. It will also provide evidence through an analytical framework for climate-informed development planning and support climate governance, policy advocacy and implementation frameworks. The program will furthermore provide an integrated, open access climate resource platform and information service of choice while developing approaches and strategies for communication, outreach and advocacy for climate information services. It will also ensure integrated programme management for resource efficiency and impact as well as promote the use of climate information to enhance disaster preparedness.



## Green transitions in Africa: ECA's Hanan Morsy calls for more ambitious global climate action



Hanan Morsy, ECA Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist. Photo: UNECA

Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), made a plea for a more ambitious global climate action during a session of the Eleventh Conference on Climate Change and African Development (CCDA-XI), from 1 to 3 September 2023 in Nairobi.

Africa today faces significant challenges related to climate change, despite contributing less than 4% of global emissions. By 2030, the continent plans to spend 5% of its annual GDP on climate-related issues, with the Sahel region at risk of up to 15% of its GDP.

According to Morsy, current NDCs put the world on a 1.7°C warming path. But without effective implementation, warming could reach 2.5°C, particularly affecting Africa's people, economies, ecosystems and infrastructure.

The Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of ECA also explained that Africa is the least electrified region in the world, with insufficient, unreliable and generally expensive supply. According to her, nearly 600 million people do not have access to electricity in Africa, that is to say, nearly 3/4 of the world's population.

«Yet Africa has the potential to close this energy gap through renewable energy sources, aiming for 80% clean

*Continue on page 5*

## CCDA plays a critical role in the face of diminishing civil society space – PACJA's Mwenda Mithika

In a world facing the imminent threats of climate change, Africa stands at a pivotal crossroads. Climate change has evolved from a distant threat to an immediate reality, demanding our immediate attention according to Mwenda Mithika, the Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) at the 11th CCDA conference.

In his remarks at the opening of CCDA-XI Mr. Mithika, emphasized the critical role of CCDA in the face of diminishing civil society spaces across Africa. He called for collective action, stating, “In our pursuit of climate action, let us demonstrate global solidarity, for together, we can bring about transformative change.”

He noted that the CCDA-XI conference is not just another gathering of experts. It is a crucial forum for shaping the future of climate action in Africa. With representatives from various sectors and countries, the conference aims to produce detailed analytical data-driven and evidence-based recommendations on critical subthemes related to climate change.

*Continue on page 6*



Mwenda Mithika, Executive Director of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance. Photo: UNECA

# Fifty percent of financial resources should be directed to climate adaptation - James Murombedzi

Two major obstacles were identified during the 3-day conference - very little climate finance that is being made available to Africa and the slow rate of providing the funds.

Participants at the conference questioned many of the new systems that are being developed and how they can contribute to ensure there is adequate climate finance in the continent.

“The amount of climate finance that is available is less than what is required to pay for adaptation to climate change and support mitigation and green industrialization on the continent”, said James Murombedzi, Chief Africa Climate Policy Center. That is how African countries are losing between 5 to 15% of their GDP to climate.

Individuals are equally affected directly. In the agricultural sector, employment is lost, production is reduced and access to land is fast becoming a nightmare.

## Climate sensitive development of the continent

It is good to develop the continent, but it is better if the development is done in a climate sensitive manner. That is the vision of the CCDA and that explains why the conference laid emphasis on concrete resolutions that will be submitted to the leadership of the African Climate Summit.

Among the resolutions agreed upon are strategies on;

- How to make debt more affordable to Africans,
- How to reduce cost of borrowing for African economies,
- How to manage high interest rates paid on existing debt,



James Murombedzi, Chief ACPC, ECA. Photo: UNECA

- How to convert debt and swap debts into investments,
- How to develop a vibrant carbon market to ensure Africa owns a regulatory and implementary framework.

“All these resolutions would be concretised during the summit,” Murombedzi explained.

Worth noting is the fact that the overall objective of CCDA-11, is to produce detailed analytical data-driven and evidence-based recommendations on the various subthemes of the Africa Climate Summit. Reports from the conference will contribute to the outcome statements for African Heads of State, towards and beyond the UNFCCC COP28 to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

## In Nairobi ... (cont'd from page 1)

outcomes, ultimately leading to the development of the Nairobi Declaration.

He said discussions had been open, constructive, and encouraging. Furthermore, the discussions underscored that by uniting and engaging in honest dialogue on potential pathways towards a greener, more inclusive Africa, the 21st century will be paved with opportunities for Africa.

Mr. Pedro said a dual approach of advocating for climate justice at the international level and actively pursuing concrete solutions at the national and local levels in African countries was needed as ‘This is not a choice between one or the other’.

Strengthening the blue economy as per the Moroni declaration and to use Africa’s mining sector for green industrialization as well as to leverage carbon markets for monetizing the continent’s natural wealth are all part of an integrated endeavor to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, Mr. Pedro said. He commended Kenya for paving the way for African voices and solutions to feature prominently at the upcoming SDG Summit and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023.

“We are establishing the foundation for a sustained strong African position, carrying on the legacy of COP27,” he said.



# Climate finance: nearly US\$3 trillion needed to implement Africa's NDCs

This figure was discussed at the eleventh Conference on Climate Change and African Development (CCDA-XI) during a session on climate finance, moderated by Harсен Nyambe of the African Union Commission.

There is a substantial financial gap in climate finance in Africa. Yet climate disasters cost between 5 and 15% of GDP each year. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the implementation of African Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) requires nearly \$3 trillion, including about \$2.5 trillion between 2020 and 2030.

With the support of developed countries and the private sector, Africa must take ownership and define its energy transition to meet these challenges. The continent has abundant renewable energy resources, potential for green hydrogen production, essential minerals for renewable energy products, and natural capital for carbon sequestration.

Jean-Paul Adam, at the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSSA) said ECA has worked closely with member states to support the green transition through efforts such as the Sustainable Debt Coalition (SDC), and emerging debt-for-nature swaps to close the financial gap. Africa's rich marine ecosystem is also at the centre of concerns, with initiatives such as the Great Blue Wall, which promotes sustainability and job creation.

Stephen Funso of the African Development Bank (AfDB) stressed that adaptation is a priority for Africa. The AfDB's approach is to increase resources for priority sectors. According to Stephen Funso, the Bank will continue to strengthen and mobilize resources in each country. To finance resilience, innovative solutions are the key priority to engage the private sector.

Planning is key to solving sustainability issues

During a session at the Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa – CCDA-11 themed:



Photo: UNECA

“Navigating the Debt, Development and Environmental Crises: The Role of Sustainable Budgeting”, participants highlighted the key role of planning in addressing sustainable development challenges.

Sustainable budgeting is a decision-making tool that enables decision-makers to achieve their goals by simultaneously identifying opportunities to boost economies and climates. According to Brian O’Callaghan, Senior Policy Advisor at the United Nations Economic Commission for

*Continue on page 6*

## Green transitions ... (cont'd from page 3)

energy production by 2050, but it will need about \$500 billion to close this gap by 2030, » she added.

She stressed the need to put a particular focus on green transitions and climate resilience in Africa, through more ambitious global actions and noted that developed countries and the private sector have the capacity to finance the acceleration of this transition.

At the continental level, Ms Morsy said African countries could mobilize up to \$82 billion a year by participating in well-functioning carbon markets. She pointed out that

the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa is already helping Member States support the green transition.

« This includes sustainable debt management, support for climate finance and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the development of the regenerative blue economy initiative, the Great Blue Wall and the SDG 7 initiative. »

The session was moderated by James Murombedzi, Chief Africa Climate Policy Centre, ECA.

## CCDA plays a critical role ... (cont'd from page 3)

Anna Tjarvar, Counsellor/Programme Manager at the Embassy of Sweden Regional Africa, Ethiopia, underscored the urgency of our response to the climate crisis. She expressed Sweden's unwavering commitment to supporting climate-related projects in Africa. "The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat but an immediate reality that requires our immediate attention," Tjarvar emphasized.

These recommendations will contribute to the outcome statements for African Heads of State, ultimately guiding Africa's role in the global fight against climate change, including the upcoming UNFCCC COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) highlighted the organization's commitment to sustainable development in Africa through climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. He stressed the importance of aligning national climate commitments with local realities and empowering local governments to implement climate-smart projects.

*"In an era where climate change knows no borders, CCDA-XI sends a powerful message: African nations are uniting for global climate action. It's a call to arms for collective action, innovative solutions, and solidarity in the face of a shared challenge. Africa's destiny in the fight against climate change will be shaped by the discussions and commitments made at this conference. Together, we can bring about transformative change and safeguard our planet for generations to come."* –

**Mwenda Mithika – Executive Director, PACJA**

## Climate finance ... (cont'd from page 5)

Africa and moderator of this session, this could lead to an improvement in credit ratings and the cost of financing.

Drawing attention to the fact that Africa's fiscal space for sustainable budgeting as well as the fund-to-needs ratio are low, O'Callaghan said it is up to Africans to use these funds optimally, prioritizing planning to solve sustainable development problems.

Martha Bekele of the Development Initiatives Group, for her part, called for more equity in the allocation of climate finance, as she finds that the most vulnerable countries receive a disproportionately small share compared to the least vulnerable. The One Campaign report found that these vulnerable countries had incurred excessive debt, and that African countries faced significantly higher interest rates than developed countries.

To remedy this, according to the Development Initiative Group, it is necessary to study the possibility of generating tax revenues at the national and sub-national levels. In addition, it is crucial to foster collaboration between national policy experts and financial experts within African governments. The implementation of a simple and comprehensive climate finance approach, combined with the country's Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), is recommended for consistency and efficiency. Institutional coordination and commitment were also highlighted, as was the call to reassess climate finance allocation and spending, particularly at the sub-national level.

### Session highlights

- The Sustainable Budgeting (SBA) approach has been recognized as a key tool to improve domestic capital mobilization in Africa in line with sovereign priorities and to support proactive debt management.
- Based on the past commitments of the Ministers of Finance and Economy, a continental commitment should be made to implement the sustainable budgeting approach in the fiscal strategies of African countries. Such implementation would prioritize aligning domestic resource mobilization with development, climate and other critical goals.
- Resources from development partners are needed to immediately build capacity on this topic in African countries, as well as the development of a continental standard.
- Resources from development partners are needed to improve the availability and sharing of data on expenditure, taxation and debt



# Africa must harness green resources to boost energy security and sustainable development – Antonio Pedro



Photo: UNECA

Africa must swiftly harness its rich mineral and natural resources to drive a clean energy revolution and accelerate sustainable development amidst the current climate crisis, according to the Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Antonio Pedro.

“Africa is a solutions powerhouse for saving the climate,” Mr. Antonio Pedro, said at the opening of the 11th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) in Nairobi, Kenya, ahead of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit to take place from 4-6 September themed: Driving Green Growth & Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World.

Mr. Pedro pointed out that Africa has abundant renewable energy resources, including 40% of the world’s solar irradiation potential, making it a great location for advancing green hydrogen.

Already, multiple low-carbon hydrogen projects are in development in Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, and South Africa. Africa is also rich in cobalt, manganese, platinum, lithium, and copper – critical minerals for producing batteries and other green transition products.

The drive toward achieving net-zero emissions is expected to trigger a 40-fold increase in lithium demand and a 25-fold increase in cobalt demand. Furthermore, Africa is home to rich natural capital, such as the Congo Basin which contains some of the largest tropical rainforests in the world.

Mr. Pedro said that using nature-based sequestration alone, African countries could provide up to 30% of the world’s sequestration needs. A key challenge, however, was in “effectively and sustainably harnessing Africa’s abundant resources for the benefit of its people.”

“To mobilize the necessary funding, a paradigm shift is necessary,” said Mr. Pedro, emphasizing that Africa’s renewable and non-renewable resources were assets for mobilizing climate finance and investment.

“The ecological services provided by Africa to the world need to be monetised through carbon markets and other innovative instruments including debt-for-climate swaps,” he added.

Studies show that African countries could mobilize up to US\$82 billion annually by participating in well-functioning carbon markets. Besides, more income could be generated from value chains around non-renewable resources such as critical minerals crucial for battery production.

“Our renewable and non-renewable resources must be harnessed to secure the continent’s human, energy, food, mineral, environmental and climate security, meeting basic needs and fostering sustainable structural transformation,” Mr. Pedro urged.

For her part, Soipan Tuya, Kenya Minister of Environment and Forestry noted that Africa’s sustainable development hinged on the successful adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts because the continent’s growth depends heavily on climate sensitive sectors and natural resources.

She stressed, in her opening remarks that Africa was capable of overcoming climate change challenges and turning them into development opportunities through innovation, clean technologies and a paradigm shift that unlocks Africa’s huge natural resource and human potential.

“Harnessing these rich enormous resources, however, requires mobilization of financial resources from both domestic and international sources to enable Africa tackle

climate change and facilitate the option for clean and low carbon development pathways,” she said.

Africa is bearing the brunt of climate change more, despite contributing the least to it. Increased droughts, intensive tropical cyclones, high temperatures and extensive floods have affected lives and livelihoods across Africa, limiting the continent’s ability to achieve sustainable development.

#### Huge financing gap

Estimates indicate that, by 2030, Africa could spend 5% of its annual GDP on climate crises based on a warming scenario of 2 degrees, with the Sahel region paying as much as 15%.

The African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change estimates that Africa will require between US\$65 and US\$86.5 billion annually for adaptation alone up to 2030. Currently, the continent receives a mere \$11.4 billion in adaptation financing per year.

Present at the opening were high-level representatives from key institutions including Josefa Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) at the African Union Commission; Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank; and Mwenda Mithika, Executive Director, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) made remarks.

## Climate finance: Effective domestic debt management is crucial for African countries - Jean-Paul Adam

This statement was made by Jean-Paul Adam of the Office of the United Nations Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), during a session entitled: **“Navigating the debt, development and environmental crises: the role of sustainable budgeting”**.

According to Adam, it is important for African countries to assess the potential future costs of interventions and their relative impact on effective debt management. As such, key performance indicators (KPIs) must align with resilience efforts and remain simple and country-specific.

Mr Adam said budget labelling is crucial to track and identify gaps, and thus facilitate the mobilization of new financing. In addition, debt management strategies, such as debt refinancing, can help build resilience. He added that the exploitation of resources available through the African Development Bank (AfDB) can now allow countries to increase their resilience capacities.

On the importance of sustainable budgeting, another panelist, Nassim Oulmane, Acting Director of the Division of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management at ECA, said that it is crucial to put in place country-specific sustainable budget adjustments, with national credits to create relevance. It would also be important to use machine learning technical algorithms, which will connect African countries to facilitate data sharing and to learn from each other on sustainable budgeting.

On risk perception management, Mr. Oulmane said there is a need to move from adhoc to systematic approaches to sustainable financing across the African continent to bring about change. And for that, capacity building is crucial for sustainable budgeting.

Alexandra Sádler of the University of Edinburgh noted that there is a gap in adaptation and resilience funding in government budgets. Attention is drawn, however, to the need to harness existing government budgets to achieve full impact in adaptation financing, such as various investment opportunities.

James Kinyangi of the African Development Bank noted with regret the large number of African countries currently facing the phenomenon of debt overhang. An evidence-based approach and priority should be given to capacity-building tailored to the specific needs of each country. According to him, fragile countries can lose up to 4% of their GDP due to crises, underscoring the urgency of tackling this problem.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has committed to dedicate 40% of its funds to climate finance and plans to increase this amount to 5-10 billion dollars between 2022 and 2025. These funds will be allocated to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate initiatives.

## « We must take action! » – Congolese Minister Arlette Soudan-Nonault

This is the cry of alarm of the Congolese Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Congo Basin, Arlette Soudan-Nonault, at the closing of the eleventh Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development of Africa.

The tone was full of emotion. In an interview at the end of the 11th Annual Conference on Climate Change and Africa’s Development, the Congolese Minister said that we cannot continuously develop concepts.

“Today, we have fundamental data which is the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). We had it in the past, but the difference is that today there is better ownership, better implementation, and we understand better what it is.

*Continue on page 13*



# OPINION

## From Challenges to Solutions: Unleashing Africa's Potential for Achieving SDGs

By Antonio Pedro

African leaders have called for concerted investment in energy and water infrastructure to accelerate the achievement of UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Credit: United Nations

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, 30 August 2023 (IPS) - September 2023 marks the halfway point to the deadline for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, globally we are still far off-track, and Africa is only halfway towards achieving the SDGs, with nearly 600 million Africans still lacking access to electricity and 431 million people living in extreme poverty.

While the challenges associated with achieving the 2030 Agenda remain complex, the slow progress in Africa is, fortunately, redeemable. Africa possesses abundant assets to achieve the SDGs. The challenge lies in effectively harnessing these resources to turn Africa's comparative advantages into global competitive advantages.

As a first step, we need to develop new narratives that move away from portraying Africa as a passive player in the global order, and instead emphasise Africa's position as a solutions powerhouse for rescuing the SDGs and climate mitigation.

Africa can play a crucial role in securing global food, water, and energy security and accelerate the decarbonisation of production systems. The continent has 60% of the world's arable land, 40% of the world's solar irradiation potential, 71% of global cobalt production, and 77% of the world's platinum.

Cobalt and platinum, in particular, are critical minerals for the energy transition and electrification of transport systems. However, Africa's extractive sector is an enclave with insignificant linkages to local economies.

Secondly, we must go beyond the logic of resource extractivism that locks the continent in perennial booms and busts that accentuate Africa's vulnerabilities to global shocks. To address this, African governments must implement smart industrial policies, foster local value addition, develop regional value chains, and promote resource-driven industrialisation.

These should be supported by well-constructed and executed local content and national suppliers' development programmes, which will ultimately lead to the emergence of well-performing local small- and medium-scale enterprises.

A notable disruptive example is the development of a battery, electric vehicle, and renewable energy value chain in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, valued at US\$46 trillion by 2050. We need to replicate these examples across the continent.

The evidence is clear that climate action will generate dividends for the continent. To this effect, we need to go beyond GDP metrics. For instance, many African countries, including those in the Congo Basin, possess vast natural wealth, which often goes unaccounted for in official statistics.

Therefore, we need to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems to incorporate natural capital accounting into national accounts. With this, countries can assess the monetary value of their natural wealth to design ecological compensation schemes, participate in carbon markets, rein-

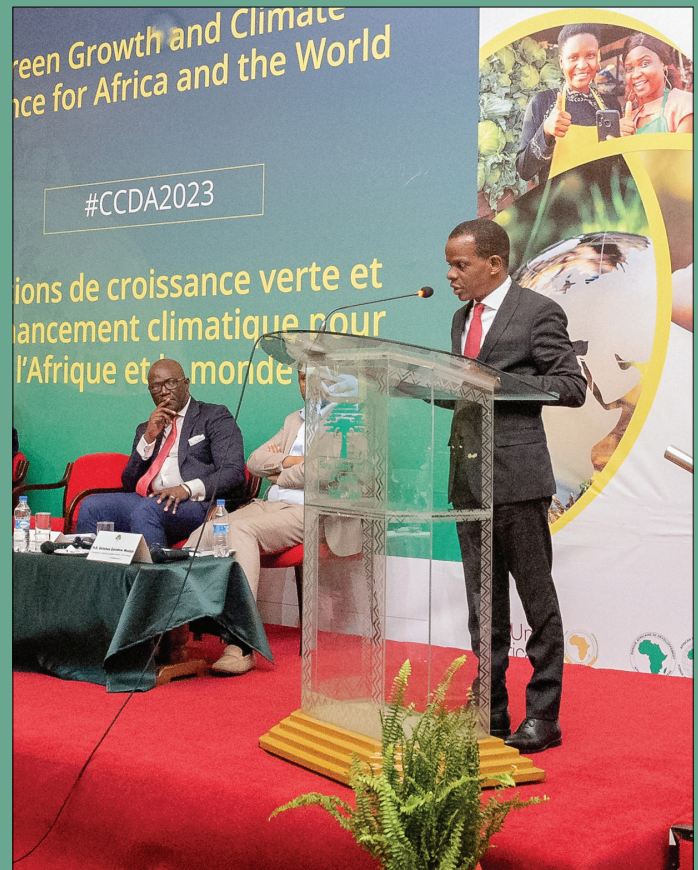


Photo: UNECA

force the value proposition of nature conservation, and secure more fiscal space.

At the right price (e.g., US\$120/ton of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered), carbon credit markets could generate US\$82 billion of innovative financing per year, with the Congo Basin being a hotspot for this.

However, the fundamentals must be right to secure macro-economic stability and sustainable financing. These include enhanced trade, sustainable industrialisation, and economic diversification to reduce the continent's vulnerabilities, improve the share of tradeables in total exports, and generate the millions of jobs that Africa needs for its youthful population.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), ratified in 2019, offers great potential for trade and investment on the continent, helping to catalyse the development of regional value chains and enable the continent to climb the ladder in global value chains. African multilateral development banks also play an important role in de-risking investments on the continent on the road to making Africa a globally competitive investment destination.

Looking ahead, we should also build on the outcomes of the recently held UN Food Systems Summit and 2nd Stocktaking Moment and accelerate the implementation of the Common African Agro-industrial parks Programme (CAAPs) to promote continental agro-industrialisation and integration.

# AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS



Photo: United Nations

“

*Climate action is not a Global North issue or a Global South issue.*

*It is our collective challenge, and it affects all of us.*

*We need to come together to find common, global solutions.*

**H.E President William Samoei Ruto** ”

## OPINION *continued*

These agro-industrial parks have the potential to stimulate public and private investment in agro-industries, ensure greater food security across Africa, and increase the value of Africa's food and agriculture product exports.

Additionally, access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is crucial to achieving many of the SDGs, ranging from poverty reduction and advancements in health, education, water supply, and industrialisation to mitigating climate change, yet Africa faces a huge energy gap. Building the Inga III and IV dams must be prioritized to increase access to renewable electricity.

To finance these and other transformational projects, dormant funds in our pension funds should be mobilized as efforts to reform the global financial architecture and reduce the cost of borrowing for our countries continue.

Africa must keep its eye on the prize and chart its own path to rescuing the SDGs. Isolated solutions and “business as usual” projects will no longer suffice. We need to strengthen Africa's institutions and agency by building ecosystems for transformational change and leadership.

Drawing inspiration from the ‘moonshot’ programmes that led to the historic moon landing in 1969, economist Mariana Mazzucato highlights the importance of creating structures that foster collaborative, mission-oriented thinking, and a shared sense of purpose.

To build such an environment on the continent, ultimately, we need leaders from all walks of life who are responsive and transparent, embrace multi-stakeholder consultations, and work inclusively towards strengthening social compacts and domestic accountability to fully harness Africa's potential for achieving the SDGs.

*Antonio Pedro is Acting Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Leadership Council Member. Article first published by IPS at <https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/08/challenges-solutions-unleashing-africas-potential-achieving-sdgs/>*



# Guterres leads call to make Africa ‘renewable energy superpower’

*The flame of injustice is “scorching hopes and possibilities” across Africa as the world grapples with the climate crisis, with the continent suffering some of the worst impacts of global warming said the UN chief on Tuesday.*

Secretary-General António Guterres was addressing the African Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, noting that despite “extreme heat, ferocious floods, and tens of thousands dead from devastating droughts”, the continent was responsible for less than four per cent of emissions.

“The blow inflicted on development is all around with growing hunger and displacement”, he said.

## ‘Quantum leap’

But amid the “climate chaos” he said it was still possible to avoid the worst, “but only with a quantum leap in climate action.”

He said far greater climate ambition was needed from all countries led by the largest emitters, in line with his Climate Solidarity Pact and Acceleration Agenda.

He called on the G20 advanced economies meeting in Delhi this week, to take responsibility and commit to reaching net zero emissions as close as possible to 2040.

Secondly, he called for “climate justice” to reach goals on renewable and affordable energy, particularly in Africa. This means operationalizing the agreed loss and damage fund, universal early warning systems, and a “course correction in the global financial system.”

## ‘World leader in renewable energy’

Third, Africa is rich in untapped renewable energy with the potential to become a world leader in renewables and “green growth.”

It has nearly a third of the world’s mineral reserves for solar power, electric vehicles and battery storage.

“To truly benefit all Africans, the production and trade of these critical minerals must be sustainable, transparent and just across every link of the supply chain”.

The UN chief pointed to the Greater Horn region where over 85 per cent of electricity comes from renewables. Mozambique gets nearly all its energy from green and sustainable resources.

And wind and solar projects are already helping power Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and South Sudan.



Photo: United Nations

He called for a collective effort to create “a true” African Renewable Energy Alliance.

## ‘African miracle’

“Renewable energy could be the African miracle but we must make it happen. We must all work together for Africa to become a renewable energy superpower.”

Mr. Guterres told the conference of African leaders and stakeholders hosted by Kenya and the African Union Commission that he was convinced the continent “can be at the heart of a renewable future.”

He said now was the time for all nations “to stand as one in defence of our only home. Let’s deliver the climate justice that Africans, the world, and the planet we share, demand and deserve.”

Speaking at a press conference in Nairobi after his speech, the Secretary-General said it was time to end the injustices that are holding the continent back. He pledged to work closely with African leaders and organizations such as the AU, to accelerate progress.

# OPINION

## Africa Climate Summit: four ways the continent can influence the global climate agenda

By Alice Ruhweza



Photo: UNECA

### Progress and momentum

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework last year paved the way for countries to develop new national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In the Nineteenth ordinary session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, (AMCEN) held in Addis Ababa, African countries committed to continue working on solutions that address environmental challenges facing the continent.

**With the planet's largest arable land, Africa has the potential to feed the world and itself.**

The 3-6 September Africa Climate Summit (ACS) emphasized Africa's untapped potential to drive green growth both within the continent and globally. It is strategically positioned to synchronize, cultivate and harness the growing momentum surrounding the themes of fossil fuels, nature, finance and food, as it precedes several key events such as the Africa Climate Week (ACW), the International Climate and Energy Summit in Madrid, the World Bank Annual Meeting in Marrakech and the Green Climate Fund replenishment conference in Bonn in October. The summit's outcomes serve as input into the COP28 negotiations scheduled for December.

**Here are four ways the ACS can influence the global climate agenda:**

#### 1. Phase out fossil fuels and leapfrog into renewables in a just and inclusive way

Africa could leverage its vast renewable energy potential and pivot from coal, oil, and gas to engineer to 100 per cent renewables, addressing both climate and sustainable development goals.

Solar is set to overtake oil production investment. IEA's World Energy Investment Report shows that for every dollar invested in fossil fuels, about 1.7 dollars will not go

into clean energy. Africa urgently needs to win a share of this global investment to achieve universal access to electricity. It should aim to increase the share of global investments in its renewable energy sources from 1 per cent annually to 10 per cent by 2028, with another increase by 2035.

#### 2. Strengthen alignment between biodiversity and climate

With 25 per cent of the world's biodiversity, 10 per cent of its internal renewable fresh water, the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium, and the second largest carbon sink, Africa's biodiversity and natural resources are its strongest allies in the fight against climate change. Africa is a frontrunner in delivering nature-based solutions through initiatives such as the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, Great Green Wall, and Great Blue Wall.

Another opportunity lies in the revision and update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and ensuring climate change is mainstreamed in the NBSAPs. The majority of African countries have submitted revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that curb global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. Strengthening the implementation of these NDCs requires a clearly defined roadmap for effective execution.

**Africa needs at least \$2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 to fulfill its promises articulated in the NDCs**

#### 3. Advocate for new and increased finance for climate and nature and fulfill unmet contributions

A report by the Climate Policy Initiative shows that Africa requires \$2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 to implement its NDCs under the Paris Agreement. This is the cost of the continent's contribution to limiting warming to 1.5°C and addressing the biggest impacts of climate change.

However, annual climate finance flows in Africa are just \$30 billion. Many African countries are struggling with limited monetary and fiscal space, compounding debt amid competing development priorities. The establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at the Global Environment Facility Assembly in Vancouver holds the potential for addressing the biodiversity crisis. It will work only if it is transparent, predictable and timely, and benefits indigenous peoples and local communities.

Last year, at COP27, parties agreed to increase financing to facilitate global transformations to a low-carbon economy. This requires at least \$4 trillion to \$6 trillion a year. Unfortunately, developed countries still have not fulfilled their pledged \$100 billion per year.



## « We must take action ... (cont'd from page 8)

We understand what climate change is, since it impacts our lives, it's concrete." Said Minister Soudan-Nonault, who later posed a series of questions: "How can we move towards resilient agriculture if we don't have resources?"

What do you do when you have seeds that require rapid growth and the soil is arid? Finally, you have no choice but to buy the seeds from elsewhere and that end up polluting your soil!

For example, my country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, is one of the most vulnerable and least prepared countries for climate change, with its share of climate refugees.

This phenomenon creates problems in terms of security and even health, and we are told that we who work for the biodiversity of these basins, the preservation of global forest ecosystems, climate regulation... that we must continue to maintain this conservation of nature so that the rich world breathes while the rest of us tighten our belts! » said the Congolese Minister, for whom Africa does not make the sleeve.

"We are simply asking that the rules that apply to the countries of the North, to the OECD countries, also apply to us who regulate the global climate," said Arlette Soudan-Nonault. If we touch our forests today, it is proven

by scientists that the world will change by 3 or 4 ° C, she said.

"Do we have to let the planet burn beforehand so that the rich world wakes up? We simply ask to be paid so that we go towards the energy transition, the ecological transition ... That's adaptation! We are good students of mitigation, of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but what do we do with it?"

Should we continue to keep? At what price? At the cost of different disasters, different miseries? We cannot continue to be told that we are bad rulers! it is not the prerogative of Africa," added the Congolese Minister, for whom many Africans are unaware of the challenges of their own continent.

"Today it is us who solve the problems of the world in the direction of climate regulation. For example, everywhere in Europe, when you park your vehicle and they put a parking meter on you, you are doing yourself a favor - you have to pay. It's the same with us - because we are providing an ecosystem service to the world. So, we must say these things to our partners in the North, because there are no more sub-people and we need climate justice," stressed Minister Arlette Soudan-Nonault.

## OPINION *continued*

Estimates show Africa needs at least \$2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 to fulfill its promises articulated in the NDCs. ACS and ACW could play a crucial role in advocating for financial commitments and the effective implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund in preparation for COP28.

### 4. Align climate adaptation with food systems transformation

With the planet's largest arable land, Africa has the potential to feed the world and itself. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events, however, are wreaking havoc on agricultural productivity.

After three years of drought, more than 27 million people are facing acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda. This has resulted in the deaths of 9.5 million livestock. The situation will worsen as temperatures surpass 1.5°C. Without addressing emissions from food systems and decarbonization, it is impossible to keep 1.5°C within reach.

African governments need to focus on climate actions in food systems. Multiple studies found a \$60 billion short-

fall in climate finance for the adaptation of African food systems. It is imperative to align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with NDC and NAP updates. It should include securing the most impacted sources of food and reducing the vulnerability of rural food producers who depend on natural resources for livelihoods, particularly women farmers and indigenous peoples.

African nations contribute marginally to the climate crisis (<4%), yet they bear a disproportionate impact. Countries largely responsible for climate change must empower Africa with the necessary tools and technology to prepare for and address its effects.

**Alice Ruhweza is the Senior Director for Policy Influence and Engagement at World-Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF). Article first published by Africa Renewal at <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/september-2023/africa-climate-summit-four-wayscontinent-can-influence-global-climate>**

# COMMENTARY: Learning from nature-based solutions to mitigate climate disasters *(By Annita Tipilda Annies)*

Eastern Africa has experienced five consecutive years of below-average rainfall, leading to a humanitarian crisis that has displaced thousands of people and left many more dependent on aid. Droughts are especially destructive to the livelihoods of millions, as they erode the meagre assets that communities possess. Similarly, disasters have a great impact on ecosystems, limiting resources needed to cope and recover from such risks, as well as increasing in both frequency and intensity.

In response, there has been an effort to move from reactive to proactive approaches in managing drought risks and building resilience. This has included a greater focus on nature-based solutions, such as ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based adaptation. These strategies are aimed at protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing ecosystems, thereby providing benefits to communities. Evidence has demonstrated the strong case for nature-based solutions, which combine both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

For instance, in Kenya, climate-smart agriculture has been employed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), while increasing the resilience of food systems

to the climate change hazards. This approach also allows farmers to apply techniques to degraded environments, thus increasing productivity, conserving water, and reducing the effects of extreme events like droughts. Other NbA strategies such as using green infrastructure to address flooding and erosion in urban areas of Mozambique also have benefits, including providing fuelwood, fruits, and biodiversity.

Furthermore, these strategies are typically cost-effective and can increase the resilience of the most vulnerable and exposed communities to disasters and climate change. Although there are numerous examples of such practices, most of the systematic documentation and learning has taken place in Asia, and are only emerging in Africa. To ensure that such examples are captured, policies and institutions must be in place to support them. The role of the private sector, particularly in climate-smart agriculture, must also be acknowledged. In conclusion, Nature-based Solutions for DRR and CCA offer great potential in promoting sustainable development and should be scaled up and out through learning from current efforts at the ground level.



Photo: UNECA



# L'Afrique doit exploiter les ressources vertes pour renforcer la sécurité énergétique et le développement durable – Antonio Pedro



Photo: UNECA

L'Afrique doit exploiter rapidement ses riches ressources minérales et naturelles pour mener une révolution énergétique propre et accélérer le développement durable dans le contexte de la crise climatique actuelle, exhorte le Secrétaire exécutif par intérim, de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA).

« L'Afrique est riche de solutions pour sauver le climat », déclare M. Antonio Pedro lors de l'ouverture de la 11<sup>ème</sup> Conférence sur le changement climatique et le développement en Afrique (CCDA-XI) à Nairobi, au Kenya, en préparation au premier Sommet africain sur le climat qui aura lieu du 4-6 septembre sur le thème, « Favoriser la croissance verte et les solutions de financement climatique pour l'Afrique et le monde ».

M. Pedro souligne que l'Afrique dispose d'abondantes ressources en énergies renouvelables, dont 40 % du potentiel mondial d'irradiation solaire, ce qui en fait d'elle un endroit idéal pour faire progresser l'hydrogène vert.

Plusieurs projets d'hydrogène à faible émission de carbone sont déjà en développement en Égypte, en Mauritanie, au Maroc, en Namibie et en Afrique du Sud. L'Afrique est également riche en cobalt, manganèse, platine, lithium et cuivre – des minéraux essentiels à la production de batteries et d'autres produits de transition verte.

Les efforts visant à atteindre zéro émission nette devraient permettre une multiplication par 40 de la demande de lithium et une multiplication par 25 de la demande de cobalt. En outre, l'Afrique abrite un riche capital naturel, comme le Bassin du Congo qui contient certaines des plus grandes forêts tropicales humides du monde.

M. Pedro affirme qu'en utilisant uniquement la séquestration naturelle, les pays africains pourraient fournir jusqu'à 30 % des besoins mondiaux en matière de séquestration. L'un des principaux défis consistait toutefois à « exploiter de manière efficace et durable les abondantes ressources de l'Afrique au profit de sa population ».

« Pour mobiliser les financements nécessaires, un changement de paradigme est nécessaire », indique M. Pedro, soulignant que les ressources renouvelables et non renouvelables de l'Afrique sont des atouts pour mobiliser le financement et les investissements climatiques.

« Les services écologiques fournis par l'Afrique au monde doivent être monétisés par le biais des marchés du carbone et d'autres instruments innovants, notamment les échanges de dette contre le climat », ajoute-t-il.

Des études montrent que les pays africains pourraient mobiliser jusqu'à 82 milliards de dollars par an en participant à des marchés du carbone qui fonctionnent bien. En outre, davantage de revenus pourraient être générés par les chaînes de valeur autour de ressources non renouvelables telles que les minéraux essentiels à la production de batteries.

« Nos ressources renouvelables et non renouvelables doivent être exploitées pour garantir la sécurité humaine, énergétique, alimentaire, minérale, environnementale et climatique du continent, en répondant aux besoins fondamentaux et en favorisant une transformation structurelle durable », exhorte M. Pedro

*Continue on page 18*

# CCDA-XI : La planification est primordiale pour résoudre les problèmes de développement durable.

Au cours d'une session intitulée : « Naviguer dans les crises de la dette, du développement et de l'environnement : rôle de la budgétisation durable », les participants à la Conférence annuelle sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique ont mis en évidence le rôle clé de la planification, pour résoudre les problèmes de développement durable.

La budgétisation durable est un outil d'aide à la décision qui permet aux décideurs d'atteindre leurs objectifs en identifiant simultanément les opportunités de stimuler les économies et les climats. Selon Brian O'Callaghan, Conseiller principal en matière de politiques à la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique et modérateur de cette session, cela conduit à une amélioration des cotes de crédit et du coût du financement. En attirant l'attention sur le fait que l'espace budgétaire en Afrique pour une budgétisation durable ainsi que le ratio fonds/besoins sont faibles, O'Callaghan a déclaré qu'il incombe aux africains d'utiliser ces fonds de manière optimale, en privilégiant la planification pour résoudre les problèmes de développement durable.

Martha Bekele du Groupe des initiatives de développement, a pour sa part appelé à plus d'équité dans l'allocation du financement climatique, car elle constate que les pays les plus vulnérables reçoivent une part disproportionnellement faible par rapport aux moins vulnérables. Le rapport de « One Campaign » a permis de constater que ces pays vulnérables avaient contracté une dette excessive, et que les pays africains étaient confrontés à des taux d'intérêt nettement plus élevés que les pays développés. Pour y remédier, il est nécessaire selon le Groupe d'Initiative de Développement, d'étudier la possibilité de générer des recettes fiscales au niveau national et infranational. En outre, il est crucial de favoriser la collaboration entre les experts en politiques nationales et les experts financiers au sein des gouvernements africains. La mise en œuvre d'une méthode de financement climatique simple et complète, associée au Système intégré d'information de gestion financière (IFMIS) du pays, est recommandée pour l'uniformité et l'efficacité. La coordination et l'engagement institutionnels ont également été soulignés, tout comme l'appel à réévaluer l'allocation et les dépenses de financement climatique, en particulier au niveau infranational.

## Points d'action clés sont ressortis :

- L'approche de budgétisation durable (SBA) a été reconnue comme un outil clé pour améliorer la mobilisation des capitaux nationaux en Afrique conformément aux priorités souveraines et pour soutenir une gestion proactive de la dette.
- Sur la base des engagements passés des ministres des Finances et de l'Économie, un engagement continental doit être pris pour mettre en œuvre l'approche de budgétisation durable dans les stratégies budgétaires des pays africains. Une telle mise en œuvre donnerait la priorité à l'alignement de la mobilisation des ressources nationales sur les objectifs de développement, climatiques et autres objectifs critiques.
- Les ressources des partenaires de développement sont nécessaires pour renforcer immédiatement les capacités sur ce sujet dans les pays africains, ainsi que l'élaboration d'une norme continentale.
- Les ressources des partenaires de développement sont nécessaires pour améliorer la disponibilité et le partage des données sur les dépenses, la fiscalité et la dette.



# Financement climatique : Une gestion efficace de la dette interne est cruciale pour les pays africains.

Cette affirmation est de Jean-Paul Adam du Bureau du Conseiller spécial des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (OSAA), au cours d'une session intitulée : « Naviguer dans les crises de la dette, du développement et de l'environnement : rôle de la budgétisation durable ». C'était au cours de la Conférence annuelle sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique (CCDA-XI), qui s'est tenue du 1er au 3 septembre 2023 à Nairobi au Kenya.

Selon Jean-Paul Adam du Bureau du Conseiller spécial des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (OSAA), il est important pour les pays africains d'évaluer les coûts futurs potentiels des interventions et leur impact, relatif sur la gestion efficace de la dette. Pour Jean Paul Adam, les indicateurs clés de performance (KPI) doivent s'aligner sur les efforts de résilience et rester simples et spécifiques à chaque pays. Selon lui, l'étiquetage budgétaire est crucial pour suivre et identifier les lacunes, et faciliter ainsi la mobilisation de nouveaux financements. En outre, les stratégies de gestion de la dette comme le refinancement de la dette, peuvent contribuer à renforcer la résilience. Jean Paul Adam ajoute que l'exploitation des ressources disponibles à travers la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), peuvent aujourd'hui permettre aux pays d'accroître leurs capacités de résilience.



Jean-Paul Adam, OSAA. Photo: UNECA



Nassim Oulmane, Photo: UNECA

Au sujet de l'importance de la budgétisation durable, un autre panéliste, **Nassim Oulmane, Directeur par intérim de la Division de la Technologie, des Changements Climatiques et de la gestion des ressources naturelles à la CEA**, indique qu'il est crucial de mettre en place des adaptations budgétaires durables spécifiques à chaque pays, avec des crédits nationaux pour créer de la pertinence. Il serait en outre important d'utiliser des algorithmes techniques d'apprentissage automatique, qui connecteront les pays africains pour faciliter le partage des données et pour apprendre les uns des autres sur la budgétisation durable. Relativement à la gestion de la perception des risques, le Directeur par intérim de la Division de la Technologie, des Changements Climatiques et de la gestion des ressources naturelles à la CEA, déclare qu'il faut passer des approches adhoc à des approches systématiques du financement durable sur l'ensemble du continent africain pour susciter le changement. Et pour cela, le renforcement des capacités est crucial pour la budgétisation durable.

**Alexandra Sádler de l'Université d'Édimbourg** note pour sa part qu'il existe un déficit dans le financement de l'adaptation et de la résilience dans les budgets gouvernementaux. Une attention est toutefois attirée sur le fait qu'il soit possible d'exploiter les budgets gouvernementaux existants pour atteindre le plein impact dans le financement de l'adaptation, comme diverses opportunités d'investissement.



Photo: Shutterstock



Photo: UNECA

**James Kinyangi de la Banque africaine de développement** relève pour le regretter le nombre important de pays africains actuellement confrontés au phénomène de surendettement. Il est essentiel selon lui d'adopter une approche fondée sur des données probantes et d'accorder la priorité au renforcement des capacités adapté aux besoins spécifiques de chaque pays. Car, selon ses explications, les pays fragiles peuvent perdre jusqu'à 4 % de leur PIB en raison des crises, ce qui souligne l'urgence de s'attaquer à ce problème.

En rappel, la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD) s'est engagée à consacrer 40 % de ses fonds au financement climatique, et prévoit d'augmenter ce montant à 5-10 milliards de dollars entre 2022 et 2025. Ces fonds seront alloués pour soutenir les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et les initiatives climatiques.

## L'Afrique doit exploiter ... (cont'd from page 15)

Pour sa part, Soipan Tuya, la Ministre kenyane de l'environnement et des forêts, souligne que le développement durable de l'Afrique dépend de la réussite de l'adaptation et de l'atténuation des effets du changement climatique, car la croissance du continent dépend fortement des secteurs et des ressources naturelles sensibles au climat.

Elle souligne, dans son allocution d'ouverture, que l'Afrique est capable de surmonter les défis du changement climatique et de transformer ces défis en opportunités de développement grâce à l'innovation, aux technologies propres et à un changement de paradigme qui libère les énormes ressources naturelles et le potentiel humain de l'Afrique.

« L'exploitation de ces énormes ressources nécessite cependant la mobilisation de ressources financières provenant de sources nationales et internationales pour permettre au continent de lutter contre le changement climatique et de faciliter le choix de voies de développement propres et à faibles émissions de carbone », déclare-t-elle.

L'Afrique subit davantage le poids du changement climatique, même si elle y contribue le moins. L'augmentation des sécheresses, les cyclones tropicaux intenses, les températures élevées et les inondations importantes

ont affecté les vies et les moyens de subsistance sur l'ensemble du continent, limitant la capacité du continent à parvenir à un développement durable.

Un énorme déficit de financement

Les estimations indiquent que, d'ici 2030, l'Afrique pourrait consacrer 5 % de son PIB annuel aux crises climatiques sur la base d'un scénario de réchauffement de 2 degrés pour la région du Sahel payant jusqu'à 15 %.

Le Groupe africain des négociateurs sur le changement climatique estime que l'Afrique aura besoin entre 65 et 86,5 milliards de dollars par an pour la seule adaptation jus'en 2030. Actuellement, le continent ne reçoit que 11,4 milliards de dollars par an pour le financement de l'adaptation.

Sont présents à l'ouverture des représentants de haut niveau d'institutions clés, notamment Josefa Correia Sacko, Commissaire à l'agriculture, au développement rural, à l'économie bleue et à l'environnement durable (ARBE), à la Commission de l'Union africaine ; Anthony Nyong, Directeur du changement climatique et de la croissance verte, à la Banque africaine de développement ; et Mwendu Mithika, Directrice exécutive de l'Alliance panafricaine pour la justice climatique (PACJA), qui ont prononcé des allocutions.



## Transitions vertes en l'Afrique : la CEA plaide pour une action climatique mondiale plus ambitieuse

Hanan Morsy, la Secrétaire Exécutive adjointe et Economiste en chef de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique, (CEA), en a fait un plaidoyer, au cours de la session introductive de la onzième Conférence sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique (CCDA-XI), qui se tient à Nairobi au Kenya, du 1er au 3 septembre 2023.

L'Afrique est aujourd'hui confrontée à d'importants défis liés au changement climatique, bien qu'elle contribue à moins de 4% des émissions mondiales. D'ici 2030, le continent prévoit de consacrer 5 % de son PIB annuel aux questions liées au climat, la région du Sahel risquant jusqu'à 15 % de son PIB.

Selon Hanan Morsy, les CDN actuelles mettent le monde sur la voie d'un réchauffement de 1,7°C. Mais sans une mise en œuvre efficace, le réchauffement pourrait atteindre 2,5°C, affectant particulièrement les populations, les économies, les écosystèmes et les infrastructures de l'Afrique.

La Secrétaire Exécutive adjointe et Economiste en chef de la CEA explique par ailleurs que notre continent est la région la moins électrifiée du monde, avec un approvisionnement insuffisant, peu fiable et généralement coûteux.

*Continue on page 20*



Hanan Morsy, ECA. Photo: UNECA

## Financement climatique : près de 3000 milliards US nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre des CDN africaines

Ce chiffre a été communiqué lors de la onzième Conférence sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique (CCDA-XI). C'était au cours d'une session sur le financement climatique, modérée par Harsen Nyambe de la Commission de l'Union Africaine.

**Il existe un déficit financier substantiel dans le financement des actions climatiques en Afrique. Pourtant, les catastrophes climatiques coûtent entre 5 et 15% du PIB chaque année. Selon les hauts responsables de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA), la mise en œuvre des Contributions Déterminées Nationales (CDN) africaines nécessite près de 3 000 milliards de dollars, dont environ 2 500 milliards de dollars entre 2020 et 2030.**

Avec le soutien des pays développés et du secteur privé, l'Afrique doit s'approprier et définir sa transition énergétique pour relever ces défis. Le continent possède d'abondantes ressources énergétiques renouvelables, un potentiel de production d'hydrogène vert, des minéraux essentiels pour les produits énergétiques renouvelables et un capital naturel pour la séquestration du carbone.

Jean-Paul Adam du Bureau du Conseiller spécial des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (OSAA), soutient pour sa part que la CEA a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec les États membres pour soutenir la transition verte grâce à des efforts tels que la « Sustainable Debt Coalition » (DDC), et des échanges de dettes contre nature émergent, pour combler le déficit financier. Le riche écosystème marin de l'Afrique est également au centre des préoccupations, avec des initiatives telles que la Grande Muraille Bleue, qui favorise la durabilité et la création d'emplois.

Stephen Funso de la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), pense pour sa part que l'adaptation est une priorité pour l'Afrique. L'approche de la BAD consiste à accroître les ressources pour les secteurs prioritaires. Selon Stephen Funso, la Banque continuera de renforcer et de mobiliser des ressources dans chaque pays.

Pour financer la résilience, les solutions innovantes sont la priorité clé pour engager le secteur privé.

## « Nous devons passer à l'action ! » - Arlette Soudan-Nonault

**C'est le cri d'alerte de la Ministre Congolaise de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo, Arlette Soudan-Nonault, lors de la clôture de la onzième Conférence annuelle sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique.**

Le ton était empreint d'émotion. Dans une interview accordée à la fin des travaux de la 11ème Conférence annuelle sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique, la Ministre Congolaise a déclaré qu'on ne peut pas continuellement développer des concepts.

« Aujourd'hui, nous avons une donnée fondamentale qui est la Contribution Déterminée au niveau National (CDN). Nous l'avions eu par le passé, mais la différence c'est qu'il y a aujourd'hui une meilleure appropriation, une meilleure implémentation, et nous comprenons mieux de quoi il s'agit. Nous comprenons ce qu'est le changement climatique, puisque cela impacte nos vies, c'est du concret ». A déclaré Arlette Soudan-Nonault, qui a par la suite posé une série d'interrogations :

« Comment aller vers une agriculture résiliente si nous n'avons pas de ressources ? Comment procéder lorsque vous avez des semences qui exigent une croissance rapide et que le sol est aride ? Finalement vous n'avez pas d'autres choix que d'acheter les semences d'ailleurs et qui finissent par polluer vos sols ! Or, polluer les sols c'est atteindre la couche phréatique avec le lot d'impacts qui en découlent : les érosions, les fleuves et des rivières qui débordent.

Il y a aussi la fonte de l'Antarctique qui impacte nos vies, la pollution des pays du Nord qui bouleverse la stratosphère dans nos régions... A titre d'exemple, mon pays, la République Démocratique du Congo, fait partie des pays les plus vulnérables et les moins bien préparés au changement climatique, avec son lot de réfugiés climatiques.



Arlette Soudan-Nonault. Photo: UNECA

Ce phénomène crée des problèmes sur le plan sécuritaire et même sanitaire, et on veut nous dire que nous qui œuvrons pour la biodiversité de ces bassins, la préservation des écosystèmes forestiers mondiaux, la régulation du climat...que nous devons continuer à maintenir cette conservation de la nature pour que le monde riche respire pendant que nous autres serrons la ceinture ! » a déclaré la Ministre Congolaise, pour qui l'Afrique ne fait pas la manche.

« Nous demandons simplement que les règles qui s'appliquent aux pays du Nord, aux pays de l'OCDE, s'ap-

*Continue on page 21*

## Transitions vertes ... (cont'd from page 19)

teux. Selon elle, près de 600 millions de personnes n'ont pas accès à l'électricité en Afrique, c'est-à-dire près de 3/4 de la population mondiale.

Pourtant, l'Afrique a le potentiel de combler ce déficit énergétique grâce à des sources d'énergie renouvelables, en visant une production d'énergie propre de 80 % d'ici 2050, mais il lui faudra environ 500 milliards de dollars pour combler cet écart d'ici 2030.

Il s'avère donc urgent aujourd'hui de mettre un accent particulier sur les transitions vertes et la résilience climatique en Afrique, à travers des actions mondiales plus ambitieuses. Hanan Morsy déclare que les pays développés et le secteur privé ont la capacité de financer l'accélération de cette transition.

Au niveau du continent, la Secrétaire Exécutive adjointe et Economiste en chef de la CEA déclare que les pays africains pourraient mobiliser jusqu'à 82 milliards de dollars par an en participant à des marchés du carbone qui fonctionnent bien. Elle souligne que la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique aide déjà les États membres à soutenir la transition verte. Cela passe par la gestion durable de la dette, le soutien au financement de l'action climatique et des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD), le développement de l'initiative de l'économie bleue régénérative, la Grande muraille bleue et l'initiative ODD 7.

La session été modérée par James Murombedzi, de la CEA.



## Nous devons passer ... (cont'd from page 20)

pliquent aussi sur nous autres qui portons la régulation du climat mondial », a affirmé Arlette Soudan-Nonault. Selon elle, si nous touchons nos forêts aujourd'hui, il est avéré par les scientifiques que le monde basculera de 3 ou 4°C.

« Devons-nous préalablement laisser la planète se bruler pour que le monde riche se réveille ? Nous demandons simplement d'être rétribués pour que nous allions vers la transition énergétique, la transition écologique... C'est ça l'adaptation ! Nous sommes de bons élèves de l'atténuation, de la réduction de l'émission des gaz à effet de serre, mais qu'est-ce qu'on en fait ? Doit-on continuer à conserver ? A quel prix ? Au prix des différentes catastrophes, des différentes misères ? On ne peut pas continuer à

nous dire que nous sommes de mauvais gouvernants ! ce n'est pas l'apanage de l'Afrique », a ajouté la Ministre congolaise pour qui, beaucoup d'africains ignorent les enjeux de leur propre continent.

« Aujourd'hui c'est nous qui réglons les problèmes du monde dans le sens de la régulation du climat. A titre d'exemple, partout en Europe quand vous garer votre véhicule et on vous met un parcomètre, on vous rend service et vous devez payer. C'est la même chose pour nous ! car nous rendons un service éco- systémique au monde. Donc il va falloir que nous disions ces choses à nos partenaires du Nord, parce qu'il n'y a plus de sous peuple et il faut une justice climatique », a conclu la Ministre Arlette Soudan-Nonault.

## CCDA XI : Le résultat est à la hauteur de nos attentes

**Au cours d'un entretien bilan avec Nassim Oulmane, Directeur par intérim de la Division de la Technologie, des Changements Climatiques et de la gestion des ressources naturelles à la CEA, il affirme que les objectifs de la onzième Conférence annuelle sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de l'Afrique, ont été largement atteints.**

« Cette conférence a été d'une importance capitale, dans la mesure où elle s'est tenue juste avant le Sommet Africain sur le Climat. Le résultat bien entendu est très positif, car il nous permet de réaffirmer les positions africaines fortes par rapport à un certain nombre d'enjeux ». Déclaration de Nassim Oulmane, qui précise toutefois qu'au-delà de ceci, il y a la nécessité de prendre des engagements et de mettre en œuvre des décisions, pour avoir une transition verte qui réponde aux défis et aux enjeux du continent, et qui place l'Afrique au centre de la lutte contre le changement climatique. Et pour cela, il faut mobiliser des financements, mettre en place de bons mécanismes, au-delà de ce qui existe au plan global ». Selon Nassim Oulmane, il est temps de trouver des solutions innovantes en matière de financement. Le Directeur par intérim de la Division de la Technologie, des Changements Climatiques et de la gestion des ressources naturelles à la CEA, précise que notre continent émet moins de 4% de CO<sub>2</sub>, pourtant il est le plus touché par les catastrophes naturelles, qui affectent en moyenne 5% du PIB des pays. Parmi ceux les plus touchés par ces catastrophes naturelles, il y a le Mozambique qui subit des dégâts de l'ordre de 15% de son PIB. « Quand on parle de 15% du PIB c'est énorme. Si en plus de ces chocs climatiques, le pays doit en même temps payer les intérêts de sa dette, on est face à un vrai problème. C'est pour cela que nous devons mettre en place en urgence, des mécanismes pour réduire le poids de la dette dans les budgets. En ce moment, nous travaillons sur des solutions d'échange des dettes. Il s'agit de transformer une dette couteuse en une dette moins



Photo: Rosine NNONLA AZANMENE

couteuse et le gain de cette différence devrait être investi dans l'action climatique. Donc vous voyez, il faut à la fois garder cette ambition climatique, voir l'augmenter, tout en répondant aux urgences et à la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) », a déclaré Nassim Oulmane avant de préciser qu'on a aujourd'hui un grand défi : celui d'accélérer notre développement, tout en ayant conscience de nos responsabilités en tant que partie de l'humanité qui a sur son sol un capital naturel, qui peut contribuer grandement à l'action climatique. Mais on ne doit pas le faire gratuitement. « Nous devons travailler pour que nos pays soient rétribués avec justice par rapport aux services écosystémiques qu'ils fournissent à

## CCDA XI ...

l'humanité. Donc il faut vraiment trouver les mécanismes et les instruments financiers qui permettent à nos pays de voir leurs efforts rétribués à leur juste valeur, pour que l'Afrique devienne le nouveau champion de la lutte contre le changement climatique.

### **Les actions prioritaires à mener en urgence**

Selon Nassim Oulmane, il y a plusieurs priorités. Il ne s'agira pas de commencer par une seule, mais il faudra trouver la manière de mettre la cohérence dans l'action et d'agir collectivement. Tout d'abord, il faut réduire le service de la dette et particulièrement dans le cadre des catastrophes naturelles.

En même temps, il faut développer des mécanismes de financements nouveaux et investir dans l'adaptation. « On était heureux d'apprendre aujourd'hui que la BAD est passée à 67% de décaissement climatique qui vise l'adaptation, alors que l'objectif il y a de cela quelques années était de 50%. Ça montre qu'on peut aller très vite

et avoir des solutions », déclare Nassim Oulmane, qui précise toutefois que la dynamique démographique est très importante, notamment avec la jeunesse du continent. Il s'agit de mettre en place très vite des moyens pour que cette jeunesse puisse saisir toutes les opportunités en matière de solutions innovantes. « Tous les jours nous sommes impressionnés par les idées qui foisonnent au travers du continent. On rencontre de nombreux jeunes et moins jeunes (vous avez pu voir aujourd'hui le Ministre de 11 ans) qui foisonnent d'idées. Il faut donc mettre très vite en place des plateformes d'impulsion (Centres d'excellence, pépinières, incubateurs, etc) reliés à la partie académique. Il faut également mettre en place des écosystèmes qui permettent à cette jeunesse de s'exprimer. Elle n'attend que cela, elle a beaucoup d'idées. En fin, il est important de nous prendre en charge, nous avons beaucoup de pistes et même déjà des solutions qui se mettent en œuvre. Mais déjà à nous de continuer à accélérer cet effort et d'y aller ensemble.





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