



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

COP26

Africa Day

Revitalizing the spirit of the Paris Agreement and the Convention at COP26: Enabling a just transition, climate justice and a green recovery towards a resilient Africa

~ Concept Note ~

Date: 9 November 2021
Time: 16.45 – 18.00
Venue: Forth Room, Blue Zone

1. Context

Africa Day is a key feature of Africa's presence and participation at the various Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It started at COP17 and is organized by Africa's principal regional institutions, namely: the African Union Commission (AUC), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB); and AUDA-NEPAD. This year's Africa Day side event is organized by these institutions in collaboration with xxxx.

Africa Day is a platform that brings together African Heads of State and Government, principals of regional institutions, ministers, researchers, leaders in the private sector and financial institutions, civil society organizations, development partners and various other stakeholders to (i) share common concerns and re-iterate Africa's positions and requirements for a successful COP, (ii) highlight some of the key positions to strengthen Africa's negotiations at the COP, (iii) dialogue and propose ways forward on key issues relating to climate change and Africa's long term development challenges, and (iv) share key messages coming out of Africa ahead of the COP, including the key issues from the annual Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference.

The theme for Africa Day at COP26 is *“Revitalizing the spirit of the Paris Agreement and the Convention at COP26: Enabling a just transition, climate justice and a green recovery towards a resilient Africa”*.

The United Kingdom and Italy will be co-hosting the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16), and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA3) in Glasgow, Scotland, from 31 October – 12 November 2021 under the overall theme of *United the World to Tackle Climate Change*¹.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/2021/11/01/unfccc-2021-11-01>



Africa goes to COP26 against a backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic having compounded with the climate change crisis to put back many years of development gains on the continent. The pandemic has induced the first recession in Africa in 25 years. Global warming continues to increase at an alarming rate, with the mean global annual temperature in 2020 being 1.2 degrees centigrade higher than pre-industrial level, with temperatures in Africa have been rising somewhat faster than the global mean surface temperature.

All these impacts can trigger cascading effects across economies. Estimates show that African economies could be losing between 2-5% of GDP per year to 2030, or even more², while many African countries are already spending between 2 and 9% of their budgets in unplanned spending to respond to adverse impacts of climate change³ – for which the continent has contributed the least, being 17% of the global population and only responsible for less than 4% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, global action remains lukewarm. Current nationally determined contributions to climate action (NDCs) are not ambitious enough and put the world on a trajectory of global warming of 3 degrees or more in the case of Africa. The means of implementation (finance, technology, capacity building and partnerships) remain very weak and not forthcoming as promised by developed countries.

Developed countries have mobilized unprecedented resources to deal with the existential threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, with G20 countries having mobilized already stimulus packages amounting to close to USD 17 trillion. The lack of concerted and meaningful global action to tackle climate change poses an existential threat to African populations. It is therefore of the utmost importance that every effort has to be made to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

2. Objective

The event will bring African leaders to bring focus to Africa's key concerns and positions with regards to the COP26 and in the context of ensuring that COP26 delivers common consensus and support for a just transition and green recovery in Africa.

3. Indicative programme tbc

1. High-level Opening (15 Minutes)

Welcome remarks/

² According to a report by the African Development Bank, UNEP and the Economic Commission for Africa (<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/climate-change-impacts-africas-economic-growth>)

³ According to an information note of the African Climate Policy Centre (http://www.climdev-africa.org/sites/default/files/DocumentAttachments/Information%20Brief-Adaptation%20COP23_New.pdf)



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

Statements

- H.E Dr. Akinwumi Adessina, President, African Development Bank
- H.E Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- H.E Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the African Union

2. Ministerial Dialogue (55 minutes)

H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency. *Session Moderator*

H.E. Mr Tanguy Gahouma, Chair, African Group of Negotiators (AGN): **Presentation on Africa's key negotiations issues at COP25**

- H.E. Dr Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission
- H.E. Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister, Cabo Verde
- H.E. Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya
- H.E. xxxx, Minister of xxxx, Egypt / Algeria / Morocco
- H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan Ronault, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Republic of Congo and Chair of the Great Lakes Climate Commission
- H.E. xxxx, Pan African Parliament
- Private sector CEO?

- Civil Society voices: Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- Youth Representative: xxxx

3. **Session 3: Closing** (5 Minutes)

- Chair of AMCEN [<NAME>] – *Concluding Remarks*
- H.E Amb Josefa Sacko – *Official closing*