



African Islands: Transitioning towards a climate smart and resilient future

COP 26 Side Event

*November 10th, 2021 – 14-16h (TBC)
African Pavilion, Blue Zone, Glasgow*

Abstract

Island nations are undertaking significant efforts to cope with the challenges of climate change, adapt their economies and mitigate the risks posed by their limited land resources, extreme multi-hazards exposure and vulnerable social conditions. This side event gathers climate champions from the Small Island Developing States in the African continent to discuss solutions that are being implemented for a just transition towards a net zero economy based on green and blue growth.

The event proposes two high-level panels. The first one includes presidents and ministers from African Island nations to discuss their innovative actions to bringing new solutions that contribute to consolidate climate resilience and sustainable development, in the framework of a just transition for SIDS nations. The second panel comprises leaders from international development partners to share initiatives being implemented that contribute to foster climate resilience and bring innovative avenues to advance a climate smart and resilient agenda to build forward better and assure that the SIDS are not left behind.

Recently SIDS and African nations launched the Santa Maria Call to Action demanding for greater support for a just transition, in the context of the Samoa Pathway, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

New opportunities emerging such as the potential of the oceans and the green and blue economy, the debt swap for climate projects, carbon markets or the green and blue bonds will be discussed as strategies to consolidate long-term sustainable development and reduce islands dependency on external support. The event will show how SIDS are working to harness these resources and ensure informed dynamic policy and decision making for a low emission climate-resilient development pathway.



Program

Welcoming (15')

- Dr. Kevin Kanina Kariuki, Vice-President, African Development Bank (AfDB), Cote D'Ivoire (TBC)
- H.E. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- H.E. Amb Josefa L. Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)

African Islands innovative solutions for transitioning towards a climate smart and resilient future

Statements by heads of state (20')

- HE Umaro Sissoco Embaló, President of the Republic, Guinea Bissau (TBC)
- HE Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic, Seychelles (TBC)

Panelists sharing experiences of climate resilience in African SIDS (40')

- HE Alexandre Monteiro, Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy of Cabo Verde
- HE Houmadi Msaidié, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment of Comoros (TBC)
- H.E. Francisca Eneme Efua, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment, Equatorial Guinea
- H.E. Mrs. Raharinirina Baomiavotse Vahinala, Minister of Environment, Madagascar
- HE Kavydass Ramano, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius (TBC)
- HE Osvaldo António Cravid Viegas D'Abreu, Minister of Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment, Sao Tome & Principe

Moderator

Advancing opportunities for a climate-resilient development pathway in SIDS through green and blue growth (20')

Panelists

- HE Vêlayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Commission
- HE Frans Timmermans, Vice-President and Commissioner for Climate Action, European Union



- Mr Courtenay Rattray, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations
- Mr Pa Ousman Jarju, Director of Country Programming Division, Green Climate Fund

Moderator

Interaction with participants (20')

Closing statement (5')

- HE Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization

Focal Points

- Jean Paul Adam, UNECA jean-paul.adam@un.org
- Gilson Pina, Cabo Verde gilson.g.pina@mf.gov.cv
- Antonio Palazuelos Prieto, UNECA a.palazuelos@un.org