



Africa Day High-Level Side Event at UNFCCC COP29 In Baku, Azerbaijan

**Theme: Scaling up Financing for Climate Adaptation and Green Growth in Africa**

### **Concept Note**

Date: 13 November 2024

Time: 14:15 -17:00

Venue: Africa Pavilion, Blue Zone

### **Background and Context**

Climate change affects people’s lives, especially those vulnerable due to their geographic location, socio-economic conditions, age, or gender. As climate change is expected to lead to more extreme events both in magnitude and frequency, our understanding of past vulnerabilities is no longer sufficient for assessing risk levels. As reiterated by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, there is a need for integrated and comprehensive risk management approaches to reduce human and economic losses and sustain development gains. Integrated solutions ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness under conditions of constrained resources and allow for mutual learning of what has worked.

In 2009, the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government established the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to set the agenda for Africa’s engagement in the global climate change negotiations and to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in global climate change negotiations. The AU also requested the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and other regional partners to intensify their efforts to provide facilitation and coordination in support of Africa’s active participation at the Conference of the Parties (COPs). Since then, they have established the African Pavilion and Africa Day to

elevate Africa's voice at the UNFCCC COPs and to create a platform for mobilizing political commitments, showcasing Africa's challenges, opportunities, and responses to climate change.

Africa is one of the most affected regions by climate change, and its current and historical greenhouse gas emissions are minuscule at a global scale. However, the region received only 20% of international adaptation finance flows (USD 13 billion) annually in 2021–2022. This is less than half of the finance going to the East Asia and Pacific region, which received about 45% of global adaptation finance flows. Furthermore, the balance between climate mitigation and climate adaptation investments continues to be tilted towards the former. On the continent, adaptation finance was only 36% of total climate finance in 2021-2022. This was a decrease from 39% of total climate finance in 2019–2020. Adaptation is losing ground to mitigation financing on the continent, and yet, the former is most needed to build resilience of the continent.

Many African nations are grappling with the profound impacts of climate change, hindered by limited financial and technical resources. Addressing these challenges necessitates a significant boost in institutional capacity and expertise to implement strategies for loss and damage effectively. This includes enhancing data collection, monitoring systems, and technical skills for assessing and managing climate impacts. The establishment of a loss and damage mechanism during COP 27 in Sharm el Sheik was a pivotal step for Africa to mobilize funding and support for developing countries to cope with the aftermath of climate-related disasters. African nations, in particular, stand to benefit from this mechanism, which aims to compensate and support those disproportionately affected by climate change. The mechanism also has a crucial role in addressing non-economic losses, such as the loss of cultural heritage, community displacement, and biodiversity loss, which are often overlooked in traditional climate finance discussions but are vital for the well-being of affected populations.

To effectively tackle these loss and damage challenges, concerted efforts at local, national, and international levels are imperative, requiring increased funding, capacity building, and a strengthened political commitment from all stakeholders involved in climate action. Furthermore, the global climate governance framework must carefully balance Africa's mitigation and adaptation needs. At the same time, Africa should advocate for more robust financial structures, which are new and additional to finance loss and damage.

Commitment to financing climate action has, however, remained elusive. With Baku poised to secure a commitment of \$1.3 trillion under the NCQG on climate finance, it should not be lost to global leadership due to the failure of developed countries to deliver on the \$100 billion per year pledged in 2009. Global climate finance for adaptation was supposed to double by 2025 but is declining, jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and threatening the investment already made in resilience solutions. Without investing in adaptation, Africa cannot capitalize on opportunities to create jobs, spur green growth and avoid losses. According to the Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), African Governments are paying twice as much for adaptation as they receive in bilateral aid. Scaling up adaptation efforts will require integrated climate and biodiversity action, which requires huge levels of financing. Globally, an estimated \$722 billion–\$967 billion of extra funding is required yearly to halt global biodiversity decline by 2030. Yet less than 5 percent of global climate finance is directed towards nature-based solutions. Africa has one of the lowest levels of access to green finance.

The growing debt burden compounds the lack of green investment: poorer countries, most of which are in Africa, spend five times as much on debt repayments as they do on climate action, which limits scaled-up tangible action to cope with climate change and restore and manage ecosystems. Carbon markets are an innovative approach for securing decarbonization targets and have grown rapidly in recent years. In Africa, however, they remain poorly developed, and, therefore, the region has not reaped commensurate support in technology and financial support to develop low-carbon resilient infrastructure and compensation for its vast carbon sinks and pools in its forests and water resources, including in the Congo basin.

Africa's preparedness for engaging in a carbon market is a multifaceted issue influenced by numerous factors, including regulatory frameworks, infrastructure, economic conditions, and social considerations. Many African nations are in the process of developing or have already established national policies and regulations to support carbon markets. However, the readiness level varies significantly from one country to another. For instance, some African countries have made notable progress in establishing carbon pricing mechanisms, while others are still in the initial stages. Establishing such infrastructure poses challenges for many African countries due to limited resources and technical expertise. Despite these challenges, African countries are increasingly interested in participating in international carbon markets through mechanisms like the Paris Agreement's Articles 6.2 and 6.4.

However, countries must navigate complex international regulations and establish credibility in reducing emissions. Inclusive policies must consider the social implications of carbon markets and operationalise the grievance mechanism. Ensuring that local communities benefit from carbon trading initiatives and implementing safeguards against negative impacts is crucial for the long-term success of such markets. Regional initiatives such as the African Carbon Market Initiative and, recently, the first Africa Multi-Stakeholders Conference on Carbon Market organised by the African Union Commission aim to create a more coordinated approach and awareness toward carbon trading across the continent, which could enhance readiness.

The meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in June 2024 provided the first opportunity for stakeholders to map out the details of, among other topics, more ambitious nationally determined contributions, a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and the indicators of the global goal on adaptation. Many of those issues were not resolved, however. Little progress was made on the modalities of implementing the outcomes and recommendations of the global stock take. There was limited progress made on the global goal on adaptation, Article 6, nor the linkages among the governance process and the scientific inputs of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

At COP29, progress is, therefore, expected to be made towards addressing the outstanding issues preventing agreement on such issues as the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, the global goal on adaptation and loss and damage financing. Therefore, Africa Day aims to amplify the African positions and voice on those crucial aspects of the Paris Agreement.

In light of this understanding, Africa Day at COP29 serves as a platform for Africa to advocate for climate finance investments to support businesses and ecosystems and to promote climate-resilient and compatible green growth for sustainable development in Africa.

## Objective

Africa Day aims to address common concerns and reaffirm Africa's stances and needs for a successful COP. It aims to emphasize key positions to bolster Africa's negotiations at the COP, promote collaboration and partnerships, facilitate dialogue, and propose solutions to critical issues related to climate change and Africa's long-term development goals. It also aims to share key points from the annual Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference and other climate-related regional processes on the continent.

## Expected Outcome:

- I. Enhanced High-Level political commitments and strengthened African Common Position on issues relating to the implementation of responses to the global stocktake, financing, loss and damage, mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, access to technology, and carbon trading.
- II. Increased partnerships, networks, and collaboration, financing climate resilient development and other resources for implementing nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans
- III. Enhanced high-level cooperation for enhancing climate-smart investments in critical sectors in Africa.

## Provisional Agenda

- **High-level Opening (25 Minutes)**

### ***Welcome remarks***

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

### **Opening statements**

- Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, PACJA
- H.E Dr. Akinwumi Adessina, President, African Development Bank
- H.E. Prof Benedict Oramah, President, African Export–Import Bank
- H.E. Hon. Fortune Charumbira, President, Pan-African Parliament
- H.E Claver Gatete, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa
- COP 29 President (tbc)
- H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya & Coordinator of CAHOSCC (Keynote address)
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh Al- Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairman, African Union (Official Opening)

**Statements from Heads of State and Government present**

**Presidential Panel Session on the Climate Finance for Africa**

**Ministerial Session (60 minutes) – Panel followed by Responses from Ministers**

**Moderator:** Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Kenya

- Status of the Climate Negotiations - Kenya
- Energy (Just)Transition and Renewable Energy, Republic of South Africa
- Climate Finance – Reform of the Global Finance Architecture, AfDB
- Outcomes of AMCEN and CCDA-XII – People Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (AMCEN President)
- Climate Extremes and Use of Early Warning Systems to build a resilient Africa, AMCOMET Chairperson, Uganda
- Carbon Markets: Opportunities and Challenges - Ghana
- Sustainable Finance and Trade – AfreximBank
- Climate Adaptation- A Priority for Africa – AUDA-NEPAD

**Closing:** AUC: H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission.