

Africa Adaptation Initiative



High-Level Roundtable

Concept Note & Agenda

United Nations Headquarters,
Conference Room 5,
UN Secretariat Building
405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
10:30 am – 11:30 am

Monday 24 September, 2018



Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa

CONTEXT

Climate change is one of the most urgent threats for the African continent. Its negative impacts are already being felt across Africa and the landscape is changing as a result. Reduced agricultural production and food security, increased sea level rise, frequent droughts, and floods: these are just some of the pressing issues affecting already vulnerable communities in Africa.

In response, the Committee of African Head of States on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) established a new initiative to enhance action for climate adaptation. The **Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)** was formally launched at COP 21, in Paris, in December 2015, by the President of the Republic of Egypt, **H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**.

In 2016, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was established to guide the AAI's development and operationalization. The TWG is chaired by AMCEN and comprises representatives of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), NEPAD's Planning Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Agency (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Risk Capacity (ARC).

The Government of the Republic of Gabon – as current chair of CAHOSCC and the AU's "Champion" of the AAI – made a first and significant financial contribution to the AAI at the end of 2017. The goal is to support the implementation of the AAI, focusing on the four pillars of the initiative, but most importantly to help encourage mobilization of additional resources for full implementation.

As part of these efforts, the African Union, the Government of the Gabonese Republic and UNDP are jointly hosting a **High-Level Partners Roundtable in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly on the 24th September 2018, 10:30-11:30am**, in order to mobilize resources for the full implementation of the AAI.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the **High-Level Partners Roundtable** is as follows:

- **Sensitising and raising awareness on climate adaptation in Africa:**
 - A **detailed discussion paper** will be launched, previewing key messages from the first **Africa State of Adaptation (SoAR) Report** (to be published by the AAI at COP 24, in December 2018).
- **Operationalising the AAI**
 - A resource mobilisation process will be launched, seeking US\$5m for the operationalisation of the AAI and US\$30m for its Flagship Programmes.
- **Mobilising partners for the implementation of flagship adaptation programmes:**
 - Presentation and launching the AAI's flagship programmes.

THE AFRICA ADAPTATION INITIATIVE

The AAI leverages support and expertise to significantly scale up climate adaptation on the African continent. The AAI's framework document, outlining the targets and activities in each of four pillars, was launched in November 2016 at COP 22 in Marrakech. A work plan outlining the planned activities was approved by the TWG at a meeting held in Libreville, May 2017.

The four pillars of the AAI's mandate are:

- Enhancing climate information services to support decision-making;
- Strengthening policies and institutions;
- Enhancing on-the-ground action; and
- Mobilizing climate finance and investment.

The AAI will collaborate with existing institutions and organisations that are implementing initiatives and programmes on the continent that address adaptation and build long-term resilience.

The AAI will also:

- Raise awareness about the importance of climate adaptation in Africa;
- Facilitate capacity building and capacity strengthening of African actors through training and research;
- Facilitate the scaling up of initiatives and programmes on the continent, by mobilising resources for their implementation;
- Facilitate partnerships among organisations working on the continent to scale up, replicate and implement new initiatives and activities; and
- Measure progress of adaptation action through monitoring and evaluation of adaptation action.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE

Opening Session

1. Opening Remarks (10 min):

- a. **H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
- b. **H.E. Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme.
- c. **H.E. Mrs Patricia Espinosa**, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary

THEMATIC SESSION 1: Africa is progressing in implementing the Paris Agreement (Session Chair: H.E. Régis Immongault)

Session remarks – Ambassador Wael Aboul Magd, Chair of G77 and China in Climate Change negotiations & Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Sustainable Development, Egypt

1. Overview of ongoing African Initiatives (12 min)

- a. **H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba**, Ministre de l'environnement de la salubrité urbaine et du développement durable, Climate Commission of the Sahel
- b. **H.E. Mme. Arlette Nonault-Soudan**, Ministre du Tourisme et de l'Environnement, Climate Commission of the Congo Basin
- c. **Mr. Mohamed Ait Kadi**, Président du Conseil Général du Développement Agricole, African Agriculture Adaptation Initiative (AAA)
- d. **H.E. Mr. Mamady Toure**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representing the Board Chair of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)

2. A Focus on Adaptation (10 min)

- a. **Mrs. Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi**, Coordinator of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

A presentation of the new AAI discussion paper, informed by key messages of the first Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) and the AAI's Flagship programmes

THEMATIC SESSION 2: Building partnership to raise ambition

(Session Chair: H.E. Mr. Achim Steiner)

1. Statement of partnership on the flagships (10 min):

- a. **Mr. Mohamed Beavogui**, Director General, African Risk Capacity
- b. **Mr. Pierre Guislain**, Vice-President, African Development Bank
- c. **Ambassador Mamman Nuhu**, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission
- d. **Prof. Mans Nilsson**, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

2. Statement of contributions & other partnerships (12 min)

- a. Member States
- b. Multilateral Organizations

Closing Session

1. Closing Remarks by (4 min):

- a. **H.E. Régis Immongault**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gabon



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Africa Union



Republic of Gabon