



AAI Press Release:

The AAI Joins the Global Commission on Adaptation

The Hague, Netherlands 16 October 2018 - The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) has joined the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) which was launched during a high-level event in The Hague on October 16th 2018. The GCA is a prodigious international initiative, that comes at a critical time following the release of dire warnings and alarming new data contained in the [latest IPCC report](#) published on October 8th 2018, highlighting the dangerous consequences of climate change on the planet. The call to accelerate action on adaptation is now more insistent. The AAI will be joining a prestigious group led by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates and World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva.

The Global Commission on Adaptation intends to demonstrate that adapting to climate change is not only necessary, but also improves human well-being and leads to better and more sustainable economic development and security. And moreover, that the costs of adapting are lower than those which world economies will face if they continue with a business-as-usual approach.

The launch event was opened by the Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte and saw the participation of an impressive number of high-level representatives of countries and international organisations from across the world. The AAI was represented by the Coordinator Ms Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi.

The AAI intends to contribute relevant research and data emerging from the forthcoming Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR), to the Global Commission on Adaptation's Report which will be presented at a major UN Climate Summit in September 2019, convened by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. That report will set out why adapting to climate risks is essential, what new actions need to be taken, what must be done differently, and how we can start working now to make the world a safer and better place.

The AAI recognises that African countries in particular need more effective governance models, which ensure that adaptation strategies go beyond discrete projects and ultimately embed participatory processes favouring deliberative decision-making, and take into account local realities. The AAI therefore seeks opportunities to work with all members of the Commission on complementary activities, whilst maintaining its advocacy role for African countries by highlighting the priority issues and areas for action on the continent.

The flagship programmes launched by the AAI at the Partners Roundtable on Adaptation, held on September 24th 2018, as a side event at the UN General Assembly meeting indicates some areas where the AAI may work with the Global Commission and other partners to support participation of African countries in UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes.

There are 28 commissioners and 17 countries around the world who form the GCA. The commission also includes 25 world leaders, including the mayors of Miami and Paris, as well as China's

environment minister. The 17 countries on board include leaders in the world's energy economy, such as Canada, Mexico, China, India, Germany, and the UK.

“This is a great privilege for the AAI and I also believe that it marks an inflection point in the global discourse on adaptation in Africa. Africa is increasingly connecting with like-minded leaders around the world and the challenge of tackling climate change is no longer seen as a contest of wills, but a shared endeavour to secure our common future.

We also welcome the inclusion of three African countries Ethiopia, Senegal and South Africa at this inaugural stage, as well as key African institutions such as AfDB and AGRA; and private sector leaders such as Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless

I look forward to working with as many members of the Commission as possible and our peers in research and advocacy circles at the Global Center on Adaptation and the World Resources Institute.”

Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi, Coordinator AAI.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON ADAPTATION

THE CONVENING COUNTRIES

Countries at the forefront of adaptation have taken the lead in creating the Global Commission on Adaptation. The leaders of these countries are committed to working together to advance the work of the Commission. These countries include: Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa, United Kingdom.

THE COMMISSIONERS

- Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Kristalina Georgieva, CEO, World Bank
- Hilda Heine, President, Marshall Islands
- Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister, Grenada
- Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank
- Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, IFRC
- Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
- Christiana Figueres, Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
- Li Ganjie, Minister of Ecology and Environment, China
- Anne Hidalgo, Mayor, Paris
- Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, UK
- Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility
- Peter Damgaard Jensen, CEO, PKA Ltd
- Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA
- Loren Legarda, Chair, Senate Finance Committee, Philippines
- Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Chairman, Econet Wireless
- José Antonio Meade, Former Finance Minister, Mexico

- Gerd Müller, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC
- Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands
- Sheela Patel, Chair, Slum/Shack Dwellers International
- Feike Sijbesma, CEO, Royal DSM
- Francis Suarez, Mayor, Miami
- Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment
- Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute
- Shemara Wikramanayake, CEO Designate, Macquarie Group Ltd.

The managing partners of the Commission are the [Global Center on Adaptation](#) and [World Resources Institute](#).

ABOUT THE GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

Global Center on Adaptation advances bold actions that help communities and countries become more resilient to climate-related threats. We build on, improve, and help deliver breakthrough solutions that accelerate transformation at scale and at speed. www.gca.org

ABOUT THE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

WRI is a global research organization that spans more than 50 countries, with offices in Africa, Brazil, China, Europe, India, Indonesia, Mexico and the United States. Our more than 700 experts and staff work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and human well-being. www.wri.org

ABOUT THE AFRICA ADAPTATION INITIATIVE (AAI)

The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) is a research, advocacy and policy advisory organisation that was launched in Paris during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) in December 2015. It represents a bold and innovative step by Africa to galvanize the support needed to significantly scale up adaptation actions on the continent.

The AAI was constituted as a result of the mandate given by the 25th African Union Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2015, to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to develop, with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), a proposal for enhanced support to Africa on adaptation. Each year the chair of the Committee of African Heads Of State on Climate Change (CAHOSSC), takes the mantle of becoming a Champion of AAI. This year the Presidency is held by The Gabonese Government and the AAI secretariat is hosted at the UNDP offices in Libreville, Gabon.

The AAI Interim secretariat is located in Libreville, Gabon.

For more information, please contact:

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Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)
Initiative d'Adaptation pour l' Afrique (IAA)

www.africaadaptationinitiative.org