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LEADERS' DIALOGUE ON THE AFRICA COVID-CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Agenda

Tuesday, 6 April, 2021 – 1 – 3 p.m. (GMT)

CONTEXT

The Covid-19 pandemic and climate change have combined to create compound crises for the world. For Africa, besides fighting the pandemic, this also amplifies the need to rapidly adapt to climate change.

Although Africa did relatively well to shield itself from the worst of the health crisis in 2020, the impact of the pandemic on Africa's development is already clear: the first recession in 25 years, with economic activity expected to have dropped by more than 3% in 2020, and as many as 40 million people falling into extreme poverty.

African countries will need a comprehensive support package that drives growth and investments, and reaps the full benefits of healthy and decent jobs to re-start their economies and embark on a low carbon, resilient and inclusive recovery. Improved access to finance, at scale, will be key to simultaneously address urgent development needs including renewable energy access for all and to implement climate action plans.

To keep the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement within reach all countries, including the G20 and other major emitters, will need to do their part by setting and translating net zero by mid-century commitments as stipulated in the Paris Agreement into ambitious and credible 2030 targets. This will be critical to limit the most extreme impacts of climate change on the African continent and its people.

The African Development Bank and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) have responded to the urgent call by African leaders for a new and expanded effort to shore up momentum on Africa's climate adaptation efforts. Both organizations have come together to use their joint expertise, resources and networks to develop and implement a new bold **Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP)**. This will bolster climate resilient actions through a triple win approach to address Covid-19, climate change, and the economy.

The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program will support the implementation of the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative. Its objective is to achieve balanced regional coverage in its work through regional and continental programs and projects. It will do so by doubling the level of climate adaptation finance for the continent, beyond the \$12.5bn that the African Development Bank has already committed.

FORMAT

Leaders will be invited to provide two-minute contributions to the Dialogue on the theme of the Africa Covid-Climate Emergency and the importance of scaling up adaptation, including through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program. The 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) Ban Ki-moon and African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina will chair the event. GCA CEO Prof. Patrick Verkooijen will moderate proceedings. The event will be held virtually and broadcast live online to a global audience of policymakers and practitioners.

PARTICIPANTS

The African Development Bank and the GCA are convening the Leaders' Dialogue on the Africa Covid-Climate Emergency in close collaboration with the United Nations Secretary-General and the Champion



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of the African Adaptation Initiative. The event will bring together African Heads of State and Government, bilateral partners, heads of international organizations and development agencies.

OBJECTIVES

The Leaders' Dialogue on the Africa Covid-Climate Emergency will be an opportunity for African Heads of State and Government, as well as for international partners, to identify opportunities to deliver a comprehensive package of support for Africa on the road to COP26.

An essential element of this package is the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, launched during the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021. The Leaders' Dialogue is expected to forge a common roadmap on the implementation of this new initiative. It will also be a platform to present Africa's support needs to the global community. The aim is to scale up and speed up actions, financing and partnership based on the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program and other regional initiatives. This will result in a strategic consensus among key stakeholders on the need to accelerate climate mitigation and adaptation across Africa including for a Transition to a net-zero, resilient, and inclusive economic model.

RUN OF PLAY

Interventions from African Leaders, partner countries and international organizations will be invited across three interconnected themes of accelerating adaptation in Africa through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program and launching a transition to net-zero and resilient economies on the continent as they relate to achieving the Global Adaptation Goal. The three themes are the following:

Ambition

- The years 2020 and 2021 developed into years of new commitments for ambition on climate action. However, much more is needed. How can this momentum be sustained through to implementation in the coming decade for Africa? How can we ensure that Covid-19 stimulus packages address health, the economy and climate change adaptation?
- What should the international community do to accelerate and scale up climate adaptation actions on the African continent as we move towards COP26 and beyond?

Financing

- The response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic has created a unique opportunity to green the economy and to avoid the macro risks of the future. How can Africa seize this opportunity to build a resilient future?
- How can we ensure that local communities on the African continent are not left behind in the transition to a more climate-resilient economy?

Partnerships

- Partnerships are critical in delivering climate resilience in Africa, as no single country or institution can go at it alone. How can we build on existing partnerships to strengthen and accelerate climate adaptation on the African continent?
- How can we unleash the creativity and entrepreneurship of Africa's youth to support a transition to a climate resilient continent in the coming decade?

EVENT LINK

Speakers can join the event by connecting to the event's virtual welcome room via the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83293000278?pwd=TKRSam0xVjd1U1Zmb09iWThPSm5aUT09>



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OPENING SESSION 13:00 – 13:20 (GMT)

Prof. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Center on Adaptation	Introduction
H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation	Co-host
H.E. Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group	Co-host
H.E. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund	Introductory Remarks
H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations	Introductory Remarks
H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon and Champion of AAI	Introductory Remarks
H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the African Union	Opening Remarks

AMBITION 13:20 – 13:50 (GMT)

H.E. Sem Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger	Chair of the AU commission on the Sahel
H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt	
H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal	
H.E. Le Maréchal du Tchad, Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad	
H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya	
H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana	
H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France	
H.E. Dr. Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury, USA	
H.E. Dag Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Norway	
H.E. Flemming Møller Mortensen, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark	
H.E. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO	

FINANCING 13:50 – 14:20 (GMT)

H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde, President of Guinea	Champion of AREI
H.E. Saad Dine El Otmani, Head of Government, Kingdom of Morocco	
H.E. Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister, Republic of the Sudan	
H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of Botswana	
H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique	
H.E. Umaro Embalo, President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau	
H.E. Azali Assouman, President of Comoros	
H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia	
H.E. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	
H.E. Dr. Maria Flachsbarth, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	
H.E. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General, WTO	
H.E. Ousmane Diagana, Vice President for Western and Central Africa, World Bank Group	

PARTNERSHIPS 14:20 – 14:50 (GMT)

H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of Seychelles	Chair of the AU commission on the Island States
H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia	
H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso	
H.E. Faure Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo	
H.E. Emerson Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe	
H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda	
H.E. Edgar Lungu, President of Zambia	
H.E. Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Commission	
H.E. Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden	
H.E. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa	
H.E. Dr. Petteri Taalas, Director General, WMO	

CLOSING REMARKS 14:50 – 15:00 (GMT)

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chair of the African Union Commission
H.E. Feike Sijbesma, Co-Chair, GCA Board and WEF Co-Chair CEO Climate Alliance
H.E. Alok Sharma, COP 26 President
H.E. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC