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The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the UNFCCC, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa- The Africa Adaptation Initiative

Date and Time – 17 November 2022 at 1900hrs to 2000hrs

Venue – European Union Pavilion

Concept Note and Agenda

Background and Justification

Africa is one of the most adversely affected regions, with magnitudes and rates of climate change above the global average. In the last couple of years, Africa has gone through some of the most erratic weather patterns, causing it to be the most susceptible of all the regions. According to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), human-induced global warming has been more rapid in Africa than in the rest of the world. These erratic weather patterns have caused forced migration, loss of income and livelihoods, and food insecurity which has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and political risks. The African region has, thus, been advocating for pragmatic and urgent global, regional, and national actions and increased desire to fight climate change despite contributing the least to this existential crisis.

The Africa Heads of States launched the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) to ensure that the African region urgently adapts to the adverse effects of climate change in the immediate, short, medium, and longer terms. AAI was developed by African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), together with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) as mandated by the African Heads of State and Government, and formally launched in Paris during the 21st Conference of Parties in 2015.

Objectives and Expected Outputs of the Side Event

The proposed side event will put center stage the pivotal Africa Adaptation Initiative - the initiative for Africa, which is driven and coordinated by Africa and which helps implementing solutions adapted to the local context. The event will aim to demonstrate the achievements of AAI's selected flagship areas, building on the key findings of the AAI's State of Adaptation in Africa report. Policy recommendations in terms of enhancing resilience and accelerating adaptation action in Africa through capacity enhancement in risk transfer and financing mechanisms, adaptation project development, including improved access to climate finance, and utilizing technology to for sectoral adaptation action will frame the discussions among decision-makers, experts and practitioners. The event will also showcase support to the AAI from key partners including the EU and UNDP and layout



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plans already in motion for the operationalization of AAI as well as next steps towards strengthening adaptation action and building resilience.

The speakers for this event may include high-level representations from UNDP, EU, AAI Champion, and the AUC (to be confirmed).

The intended audience for the event will be a mix of political decision makers at various levels, heads of delegations, negotiators, and technical experts, depending on its timing. The proposed event is left flexible to accommodate any last-minute changes. The event could be included in the EU side events planning – as part of the Africa Day events or during a day focusing on Resilience and Adaptation more broadly.

The proposed event will include the following segments:

- Outline the importance of adaptation for COP 27, and why the AAI is important for enhancing adaptation action
- Outline the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative while providing insights on the ongoing/completed preparations by the Arab Republic of Egypt to operationalize the Africa Adaptation Initiative Technical Support Unit ahead of COP27.
- Recall the long-standing partnership of UNDP with AAI since its inception in 2015, where UNDP has been a steadfast supporter and an integral partner in providing technical and policy advice and support; developing AAI's framework document and work plan, stakeholder and donor engagement plans, communication strategy, and supporting the AAI's Technical Support Unit that serves as the Secretariat for the AAI. UNDP will provide an overview of its strategic priorities for the continent and its commitment to supporting countries to raise their NDCs ambition, develop National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and investment plans/bankable projects for their implementation; UNDP will also provide an overview of how it will support countries to address the multiple and interconnected crises that the continent is facing, by building resilience of countries and communities. UNDP will reaffirm its commitment to continuously support the efforts of AAI as a trusted strategic partner.
- Provide an overview of the European Union's priority areas and specific objectives which will call for a strategic partnership with African countries to tackle together the emerging challenges resulting from economic, political social, technological, climate, and environmental changes. This will also include highlighting the continuous support and commitment provided by the EU to AAI since 2019 to enhance climate change adaptation and a possible announcement on Phase 2 funding which will focus on an Adaptation Project Preparation Incubator that will develop the capacities of African direct access entities to expand their adaptation investments.
- Showcase the successes of AAI outlining what has been achieved so far, the partnerships established, capacities developed, and its position for the future. The successes showcased will be based on the three outcome areas of AAI under the project, "*Enhancing Knowledge and Evidence to Scale-up Climate Change Adaptation in Africa.*"



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- Indicate the upcoming plans of the AAI, and outline how as an Africa-owned initiative, AAI can position/leverage itself as the preferred entity for climate change adaptation action and partnership in Africa.

Tentative Agenda

Speakers (TBC)	Topics of Discussion	Time
Moderator	<i>Welcoming Remarks and Intro (including a 2-minute video) Framing: key findings of the AAI Africa Adaptation Report</i>	10 mins
COP 27 Presidency	<i>Why is adaptation important for COP 27</i>	10 min
African Union Commission (AUC)	<i>Africa, climate change adaptation and why the AAI is needed and endorsement at the highest political level.</i>	10 mins
AAI Champion, Gabon	<i>AAI's vision and its operationalization</i>	10 mins
DG-CLIMA, European Commission or DG INTPA	<i>EU's priority areas in African countries and how EU action reflects on the key findings of the report</i>	10 mins
UNDP	<i>UNDP's partnership with AAI and UNDP priorities for the continent to meet commitments of the Paris Agreement and build resilience to climate and other interconnected crises.</i>	10 mins
AAI Technical Coordinator	<i>AAI's achievements</i>	10 mins
Moderator	Q & A Closing	20 mins

Background

EU-UNDP-AAI Partnership

With the financial support of the European Union (EU) and financial and technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) embarked on a project, "Enhancing Knowledge and Evidence to Scale-up Climate Change Adaptation in Africa" which aims at enabling the AAI to better facilitate, coordinate and provide support to African countries in advancing climate adaptation action in accordance with national climate goals in support of the



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implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030. Specifically, the objective of the project is to enhance understanding of and capacity to expand, existing climate information, risk and vulnerability studies, and risk transfer options in Africa through strengthening and scaling up the AAI.

The objective of the project is accomplished through the following Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Expand Capacity to Utilize Climate Risk Information and Assess and Implement Risk Transfer Mechanisms which included developing a stocktaking report detailing the baseline state of climate risk information utilization and use of climate risk transfer mechanisms across Africa and advancing the technical capacity of decision-makers to understand, assess, plan for, and use climate risk information and risk transfer tools.
- Outcome 2: Strengthen Knowledge and Capacity for climate change adaptation project development which comprised of the development of an African Hub for sharing good practices and lessons learned between countries on climate risk information, climate information services, and adaptation, and the development of a south-south exchange program focusing on sharing of experiences and best practices on climate adaptation project development in Africa.
- Outcome 3: Develop and Disseminate a State of Adaptation in Africa Report which would build on published research and key reports to present the state of adaptation in Africa through a sectoral and thematic deep-dive analysis and highlight emerging areas and enablers that provide the potentiality of strengthening the continent's adaptation capacity for increased resilience.

Contacts

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