**Side event COP27 - Concept note**

**Strengthening the capacity to increase resilience to climate change in West Africa**

BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change, Regions4 and Confederación

Española de Organizaciones Empresariales (CEOE)

14th of November 2022, 16:45 – 18:15 (Room 3)

**Background and objective**

Home to more than 400 million people, West Africa suffers from severe climate-related hazards, which affect communities, livelihoods, and infrastructures and hamper development and economic growth. Coastal areas, which host about one-third of the population in the region and more than half of its gross domestic product (GDP), are particularly vulnerable to climate risks. In 2017 only, coastal erosion, flooding, and environmental degradation caused losses of US$3.8 billion in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo. Current sea-level rise rates are expected to lead to accelerated coastal erosion, flooding in low-lying coastal areas, and increased salinization of soils, and surface and ground waters.

This adds to other challenges, such as urbanization processes that are accelerating around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia. More than half of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, and by 2050, two-thirds of people are expected to live in cities Although cities may have many advantages, urbanization is not without challenges, from spatial urban development to access to infrastructure, sanitation, transport, and other basic services.

After the pandemic, the global energy crisis has pushed up the prices of energy, food, and other commodities, further putting pressure on African economies. The current situation has exposed not only the need but also the additional benefits of moving towards a transition to low-carbon and resilient societies. Furthermore, the need for a just transition is key to promoting inclusive climate policies and sustainable development.

This side event will focus on sharing practical knowledge and exploring the collaboration between different actors to respond to these challenges and progress toward a climate-resilient and just development.

**Agenda**

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| 16:45-16:50 | **Introductory remarks**  Maria Jose Sanz, Scientific Director, BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change and moderator of the session |
| 16:50-17:50 | **Multi-stakeholders dialogue** (8-10 min each, in total 60 min) |
|  | **Madeleine Diouf, Head of the Climate Change Division in Senegal's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD).**  *What are the main challenges to climate resilience in LDCs?*  **Rashid El-Abdi, president of the region of Rabat – Salé Kénitra, and Vice president for Africa for Regions4** - Call to action to strengthen cooperation in West Africa, towards more resilience  *What practices do you know that AIRF can undertake, that can inspire us to move forward?*  **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa / OECD**  *What are the main opportunities for the transition in Africa? What keeps us from exploring such opportunities?*  **Ana Rivero (CEOE, Banco Santander)**  *Climate finance has traditionally been directed at climate mitigation initiatives. However, there is no doubt that adaptation needs to be addressed urgently. What could be the role of the private sector in promoting adaptation practices? What opportunities can it create?*  **Alvin Chandra, Nature for Climate Branch UNEP**  *How can this climate-resilient development be supported by nature-based solutions? How finance can be accelerated?*  **Mamadou Ndong Toure, Climate Change Technical advisor, Region of Gossas, Senegal**  *What are the main challenges and needs at the regional/local level to accelerate action for your region?* |
| 17:50-18:10 | **Panel discussion and Q&As** |
| 18:10-18:15 | **Closing remarks** |