

UNFCCC COP27 Collaborative UN system side event

From talk to action: scaling up innovative finance and solutions for accelerated adaptation in LDCs, SIDS and African Nations

11 November 2022
13:15-14:45 (Egypt time)
Room Hatshepsut (300 pax)
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Background

The latest IPCC report found that progress on adaptation so far has been uneven and that significant gaps exist between adaptation action implemented and what is *de facto* needed, for instance, due to lack of technical and financial capacities, political will and access to reliable data (past and climate). This is particularly true for the most vulnerable communities in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and African nations, which are among the hardest hit by rising temperatures and climate change, albeit having contributed least to the climate crisis. If we are to reverse such a trend, the report adds, “urgent accelerated action is required to adapt to climate change”.

Added to this, the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and associated rising energy and food prices worldwide, the fast growing urbanisation of sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 80% of urban population reside in informal settlements, all pose added pressure on developing and climate-impacted communities, exacerbating their already weak adaptive capacity and reverting decades of development gains. On top of that, adaptation finance is falling short to live up to the growing needs required to transition to a climate resilient development pathway, in particular in the LDCs, SIDS and Africa nations.

Mobilizing and scaling up innovative, integrated, technical and financial solutions is therefore a must to accelerate implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (NAP) in the LDCs, SIDS and African nations, particularly at the subnational level, where most adaptation action is needed.

Satellite data and geospatial technology applications can help bolster evidence-based decision-making and improve access to climate funds, at both national and subnational levels, by providing sufficient evidence, justification and climate rationale for proposed adaptation planning and interventions.

Furthermore, local and urban authorities are in a unique position to identify comprehensive climate and disaster risk management solutions, including adaptation, that best meet community needs; typically have the mandate to undertake the small- to medium-sized adaptation investments required for building climate and disaster resilience; and have the legitimacy and convening power to coordinate, co-finance and interact with stakeholders.

Objectives

Building on the collaboration between UN organizations, the session will bring together experts and high-level officials from the most climate vulnerable countries, and representatives from vulnerable urban and local communities, to share experiences, good practices and innovative solutions to accelerate adaptation action, and to take climate talks from policy to action and results. The session also aims at providing a political boost towards enhancing resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

Provisional Programme

Time	Item	Speaker
15 mins	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Welcome remarks from the Moderator ✓ Keynote speaker address 	<p>Moderator – Luc Gnacadja, Founder of GPS-Dev, Former Minister of Environment of Benin and former Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification</p> <p>Keynote speaker - H.E. Mr Einsenhower Nduwa Mkaka, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change of Malawi</p>
50 mins	Session One: How is the UN, through its initiatives, supporting scaling up of innovative finance and solutions for accelerated adaptation in LDCs, SIDS and African Nations?	<p>5 speakers (7 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Lebaiateilaite Gaunavinaka, In-country Expert for Fiji, UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), UNITAR - Ms. Lamia Mohsin, Youth Fellow, UN High-Level Climate Champions, Bangladesh (VIRTUAL) - Ms Gladys Nyasuna Wanga, Governor of Homabay County, Kenya - Mr. Landing B. Sanneh, Chairman (Mayor) of Mansakonko Area Council, The Gambia - Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy Arghya Sinha Roy, Principal Climate Change Specialist (Climate Change Adaptation), ADB

20 mins	<p>Session Two: Moderated panel discussion (including with questions from the audience)</p> <p>✓ <i>A moderated panel discussion will explore how we can ensure scalability and sustainability of the solutions presented in Session 1, with a special focus on attracting adaptation finance and technology transfer to LDCs, SIDS and African nations.</i></p>	<p>All speakers</p> <p>Speakers will be guided by questions that will be shared in advance.</p> <p>Moderator – Luc Gnacadja, Founder of GPS-Dev, Former Minister of Environment of Benin and former Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification</p>
5 mins	<p>Wrap up and Summary</p>	<p>Moderator – Luc Gnacadja, Founder of GPS-Dev, Former Minister of Environment of Benin and former Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification</p>