



COP28 High Level Dialogue Convened by H.E. the President of Botswana

'Addressing the Climate Crisis and Human Settlements Nexus in Africa through Integrated Multilateral Action: Articulating Vision and Opportunity'

1 December 2023, 13:00 – 14:00
Africa Pavilion, Zone B6, Building 70

Panel

- H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana
- H.E. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia
- Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- Jean-Paul Adam, Deputy USG-OSAA
- Mr. Kamal Amakrane, Managing Director, Global Center for Climate Mobility

Moderated by:

- Axel Threfall, Editor at Large, Reuters

Concept

Africa stands at a critical juncture in the face of climate change. Despite contributing less than 4% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the continent is exceedingly vulnerable to climate impacts.

This dialogue underscores the critical need for integrated, cooperative multilateral approaches to tackle some of Africa's most pressing climate challenges.

As per the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2023, Africa's adaptation costs are estimated to rise to \$50 billion annually by 2050, if the global temperature increase is kept below 2°C.

Rapid urbanization in Africa poses both challenges and opportunities for climate resilience. According to UN Habitat, African urban areas will be home to an additional 950 million people by 2050. Integrating climate resilience into urban planning and development is crucial to manage risks and leverage opportunities for sustainable growth.

The significant shortfall in climate finance for Africa, necessitates innovative financing solutions and increased investments from public and private sectors to bridge the gap.

The World Bank's "State of Climate Finance" report (2022) indicates that current climate finance flows are significantly below the levels needed to achieve low-carbon, resilient development globally. For Africa, this gap is particularly pronounced.

According to UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2023:

- The estimated cost of adaptation in developing countries is \$215 billion per year this decade, with a necessity for \$387 billion per year to implement domestic adaptation priorities.
- Decline in Adaptation Finance: Public multilateral and bilateral adaptation finance flows to developing countries declined by 15% to \$21 billion in 2021.



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- The current adaptation finance gap is estimated at \$194-366 billion per year, highlighting a significant shortfall in funding.

According to the AfDB, Africa needs \$40-60 billion annually for climate adaptation alone, but current international climate finance flows are insufficient, only meeting a fraction of these needs.

The IMF has stated that climate change poses substantial risks to economic stability in Africa. The continent's GDP could decline by up to 3% by 2050 due to climate change impacts if adequate measures are not implemented.

The World Bank's "Global Economic Prospects" report (2022) suggests that leveraging private sector investment through blended finance and public-private partnerships can play a crucial role in filling the climate finance gap.

The AfDB has been advocating for innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds, which have seen a rise in issuance in recent years, yet remain a small portion of total bond issuance in Africa.

UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2023 notes that adaptation planning and implementation are plateauing, failing to keep pace with the escalating climate change impacts. This inadequacy in adaptation has profound implications for losses and damages, particularly affecting the most vulnerable populations.

UNEP identifies seven methods to boost financing, including domestic expenditure, international and private sector finance, remittances, support for Small and Medium Enterprises, and reform of the global financial architecture.

It emphasizes the need for innovative financing mechanisms, such as the new Loss and Damage fund, to achieve the required investment scale.

New COP28 Loss and Damage Pledge

COP28's new bold loss and damage funding pledge of over USD 430 million is a leap forward. The fund is set to offer much-needed financial support to countries bearing the brunt of climate-related disasters. It signifies a shift from broader climate goals to specific, actionable support, acknowledging the developed world's responsibility and the urgent need for resilience in vulnerable nations.

Infrastructure Investment for Resilience

Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure is not just a cost but an opportunity; the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate suggests that such investment could yield an economic return of \$4 for every \$1 invested.

Urban infrastructure, particularly in rapidly expanding cities, must prioritize resilience to climate impacts, including extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

A report by the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) found that investing USD 1.8 trillion globally from 2020 to 2030 in five key climate adaptation areas could result in USD 7.1 trillion in net benefits. These areas include early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland



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agriculture, mangrove protection, and investments in water resource resilience. This supports the statement about the economic return of investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.

In fiscal year 2022, the World Bank Group delivered a record \$31.7 billion for climate-related investments. This amount, constituting 36% of its overall lending, exceeds the climate co-benefits target set in the Climate Change Action Plan, 2021-2025. This demonstrates a significant commitment to funding climate-resilient infrastructure.

In 2022, the African Development Bank Group made transformative investments totaling \$8.2 billion. The investments were directed towards its High 5 strategic priority areas, which include enhancing the quality of life for people in Africa and improving the continent's resilience to climate impacts.

The report also highlighted that Africa is the least climate-resilient region globally, with nine out of the ten most vulnerable countries located on the continent.

Policy Development and Multilateral Cooperation

Effective policy frameworks are essential for attracting foreign direct investment and supporting sustainable urban infrastructure.

Policies need to be cohesive and inclusive, considering the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, including women and indigenous populations.

Need for Enhanced and Integrated Multilateral Cooperation

There is a growing need for enhanced and integrated multilateral cooperation to address the climate crisis, urban environment, and biodiversity loss in an integrated manner. Multilateral cooperation is key to sharing knowledge, technology, and resources for climate adaptation and sustainable urban development.

In its report, 'Innovative International Cooperation for Climate', IDDRI highlights the necessity for systemic transformation involving both technological and organizational shifts across all sectors and countries. Challenges include societal involvement, stakeholder coordination, and overcoming resistance due to vested interests.

The report advocates for a new approach in international cooperation, suggesting a bottom-up, needs-based strategy prioritizing local capacities and solutions .

UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022–2025 addresses three interconnected crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The strategy is designed to reverse these negative trends and fulfill the promises of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

UNEP aims to strengthen environmental governance and drive multi-stakeholder actions targeting the causes of these crises. It employs seven interlinked subprograms for action, including Climate Action, Nature Action, and Environmental Governance, emphasizing the integration of efforts across different environmental challenges.

Technology and Innovation



The role of technology and innovation in addressing the climate crisis is pivotal. Investment in climate-smart technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable urban solutions can significantly reduce emissions and increase resilience.

Collaborative efforts in research and development, as well as technology transfer, are crucial for African nations to leapfrog to more sustainable development models.

Humanitarian Action and Community Engagement

Humanitarian action plays a critical role in immediate climate disaster response and long-term resilience building. Community engagement is vital for the success of adaptation strategies, ensuring they are grounded in local needs and knowledge.

Empowering local communities to participate in decision-making processes leads to more sustainable and effective climate solutions.

In conclusion, today's dialogue is a call to action. It's an opportunity to renew our commitment towards Africa's vision and leadership in building adaptation and resilience and where Africa's vulnerabilities are transformed into strengths, and its potential is fully realized in the global fight against climate change.