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AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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AU 'hails G20 full membership'



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, shares a light moment with AU Chairman Azali Assoumani who is the president of the Union of the Comoros at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, yesterday. | REUTERS

In a landmark development, the African Union (AU) was made a full member of the Group of 20 (G20) under India's presidency.

It is a win for India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to portray his country as a voice for the Global South.

The move to include the AU in the G20 was proposed by Modi in June and supported by China.

At the inaugural session of the two-day G20 summit held in the Indian capital of New Delhi, the members agreed to grant permanent membership to the AU to make the group more representative.

Until recently, the G20 comprised 19 countries and the EU, with South Africa being its only member state from the continent.

"With everyone's approval, I request the African Union head to take his seat as a permanent G20 member," Modi said, claiming it turned the grouping into a "people's G20".

President Azali Assoumani of the Union of the Comoros who is the current AU chairperson, then assumed his seat representing the 55-member continental body for the session. The AU at full strength has 55 members but six junta-ruled nations are currently suspended. Collectively, it has a GDP of \$3 trillion (about R57 trillion) with some 1.4 billion people.

"As a continent, we look forward to further advancing our aspirations on the global stage using the G20 platform," Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who is at the summit, posted on X, formerly Twitter.

The AU Commission chairperson Moussa Faki hailed the decision to grant the continental body permanent membership in the G20.

"I welcome the AU's entry into the G20 as (a) full member. The membership, for which we have long been advocating, will provide a propitious framework for amplifying advocacy in favour of the continent and its effective contribution to meeting global challenges," Faki wrote on X.

Source: [SUNDAY TRIBUNE](#)

Infrastructure reform is key to accelerating Africa's energy transition

By Francesco La Camera, IRENA Director-General & Nardos Bekele-Thomas, AUDA-NEPAD CEO



With 80% of the world's population without access to electricity residing in Sub-Saharan Africa — it is clear that the current fossil fuel based energy system fails to meet Africa's power needs. Something needs to be done quickly.

Renewables offer a compelling solution. Not only are they the most rapidly deployable and versatile technology available. They are also the most affordable.

A recent analysis by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) shows that the adoption of renewable power in Africa since the year 2000 has led to USD 19 billion in fossil fuel cost savings within the electricity sector.

Given that Africa's renewable energy potential far outstrips its projected demand for electricity in 2040, the continent has more than enough renewable resources to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development as envisioned by the African Union in its Agenda 2063.

Africa's renewable energy resource potential, however, is unevenly distributed across the continent. There is a profound need for appropriate infrastructure to be put in place to utilize and distribute this potential among the different regions to enable efficient, sustainable, and affordable access to energy across Africa.

Guided by the African Union (AU), The Agenda 2063 vision shapes a future of integration, prosperity, and peace

driven by its citizens. The vision unfolds through ten-year implementation plans, crafting a roadmap of development goals and targets.

To realize Africa's vast potential, we must ensure there is adequate investment and infrastructure development to support renewable energy. In the coming years, this means urgently overcoming the structural barriers across three priorities: infrastructure, policy, and institutional capabilities.

Continued investments in cross-border transmission infrastructure and a deepening of electricity trade can bring more flexibility to achieve a smart diversified generation structure and accommodate the high share of variable renewables, thus enhancing Africa's grid reliability and resilience.

To achieve this transformation, in 2021 the African Union launched the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) aimed at creating one of the largest electricity markets in the world by 2040.

The Continental Power System Masterplan (CMP), under which IRENA collaborates with AUDA-NEPAD, serves as a blueprint and supports the establishment of a long-term continent-wide planning process for power generation and transmission involving all five African power pools.

Implementing this ambitious plan will be a herculean task, requiring an extraordinary level of financial resources—a burden that African nations cannot shoulder alone. As Kenya's President William Ruto made clear at the recent launch of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), which IRENA facilitates, the question is not whether Africa has the ambition, but how to translate ambition into reality.

The energy transition requires large public investment to trigger systemic change and build the physical infrastructure needed to develop a new energy system powered by renewables. This is where multilateral financial institutions come into play.

For too long, institutions have addressed symptoms rather than root causes. While funding individual projects—be they utility-scale or off-grid—is crucial, without the necessary structural changes, this approach is not comprehensive. It cannot hope to attract sufficient capital to fundamentally transform the continent's energy reality to deliver its socioeconomic development goals. A change in approach is needed.

It is time to reimagine how multilateral cooperation works and to strengthen collaboration between the Global North and the Global South. Reform is needed to the way lending is made. Priority must be given to building supportive physical infrastructure, enhancing local capacities, and creating local

supply chains leveraging Africa's abundant critical materials. All of this must be done in a way that adds economic value for African countries.

Only 2% of global investments in renewable energy in the last two decades were made in Africa. The recent initiative announced by the COP28 Presidency during Africa Climate Week marks a significant milestone for the continent. Not only is the USD 4.5 billion commitment to develop clean power in Africa a significant sum, it is also targeted to address key energy transition barriers, including the continent's infrastructure needs.

Later this year, at COP28, the first Global Stocktake since the Paris Agreement will be held in the United Arab Emirates. This event will measure the gap that remains between climate pledges and action. The moment, however, will also present us with a chance to chart a new course.

As we approach this pivotal moment in history, it is imperative that we construct an action-oriented narrative that tackles the key barriers. Doing so will enable us to take meaningful strides towards keeping the 1.5-degree Celsius temperature rise within reach.

ORIGINAL SOURCE: [PV MAGAZINE](#)
MODIFICATIONS: AUDA-NEPAD

IRENA and AUDA-NEPAD Join Forces to Advance Regional Interconnections in Africa

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) signed an agreement aimed at supporting African countries in their efforts to achieve the African Union's Agenda 2063 vision and the UN-Sustainable Development Goal 7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The agreement was signed today by the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Nardos Bekele-Thomas and Director-General of IRENA Francesco La Camera on the margins of Africa Climate Week in Nairobi.

"Acknowledging that 80% of the global population without access to electricity resides in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is evident that the existing energy infrastructure cannot adequately meet the continent's needs," stated Mr. La Camera.

"The creation of a more equitable energy system—one that leverages a diverse mix of Africa's abundant renewable resources is dependent on a more interconnected, flexible and reliable power grid in the region. This partnership serves as a pivotal step toward achieving that objective."

AUDA-NEPAD CEO Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas underscored the findings of the Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP), designed to provide a strategic roadmap for connecting Africa's five power pools, emphasising the critical need for immediate and proactive measures in Africa's electricity sector.

She highlighted that, the current "business as usual" trajectory falls significantly short of achieving universal electricity access by 2040, necessitating a substantial increase in investments to elevate the continent's

installed capacity from 266GW to approximately 1,218GW.

"To realize this ambitious target, an estimated USD 1.29 trillion in cumulative investments will be essential, potentially culminating in the establishment of a robust continental electricity market valued at USD 136 billion by 2040. It is imperative to take urgent and strategic actions to accomplish these transformative goals," said Ms Bekele-Thomas

The continued investments in cross-border transmission infrastructure and a deepening of electricity trade will allow African countries to accelerate their energy expansion and transition by sourcing electricity from a wide range of competitive, clean energy resources, by anchoring on the continent's five power pools in order to create Africa's Single Electricity Market.

PIDA's Decade of Transformation: AUDA NEPAD Paving the Way for Africa's Prosperous Future

The 15th of September 2023 marked a historic milestone as the African Union Commission, in partnership with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD); and its Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) partners, unveiled the First 10-Year PIDA Implementation Report. This ground breaking report not only celebrates PIDA's outstanding achievements over the past decade but also lays the foundation for an even brighter future of infrastructure development throughout Africa.

Since its inception in 2012, PIDA's Priority Action Plans (PAPs) have been the driving force behind the acceleration of vital regional projects, ushering Africa closer to a united and prosperous continent. During the initial phase of PIDA (2012-2020), remarkable milestones were reached, including the construction of thousands of kilometers of roads and railways, the establishment of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), and significant advancements in energy generation and transmission. These accomplishments have set the stage for continued progress.

In a compelling address at the launch event, H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, emphasised that, "Regional integration is the pathway to sustainable development in Africa. For far too long, insufficient infrastructure has hindered our continent's ability to reach its full economic potential. PIDA (2012-2040) stands as a testament to the AU's visionary commitment in action," she said.

Some key highlights from the First 10-Year Implementation Report include:

- **Electrifying Progress:** Nearly 30 million people now have access to electricity, unlocking countless opportunities for growth and prosperity.



- **Boosting Intra-Africa Trade:** Investments in road and rail infrastructure have elevated intra-Africa exports by 16%, fostering regional integration and economic development.
- **Ensuring Clean Water Access:** A pioneering water transfer project provides clean water access to underserved communities, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future.
- **ICT Revolution:** With broadband penetration exceeding 15% of the target, Africa thrives with e-commerce, mobile banking, e-education, and enhanced business efficiency.
- **Job Creation:** PIDA projects have generated 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs, empowering communities and fuelling economic growth.

Looking ahead, PIDA outlines a comprehensive strategy for the next phase of development:

- **Innovation Acceleration:** Leveraging innovation to expedite project implementation, ensuring a brighter future for Africa.
- **Building on Success:** Maximizing the impact of past achievements across the continent.
- **Addressing Capacity and Funding Challenges:** Ensuring the sustainability of PIDA initiatives by addressing capacity and funding challenges.
- **Sustainable Impact:** Guaranteeing that infrastructure development leaves a lasting positive impact on Africa's environment and communities.
- **Fostering Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships and collaboration to strengthen collective efforts and drive inclusive growth.

AUDA-NEPAD's Director of Infrastructure, Trade, Industrialisation and Regional Integration, Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum, emphasised, "PIDA has emerged as a beacon

of hope and progress, propelling Africa towards an era characterized by economic growth, regional integration, and improved livelihoods for millions of Africans."

JICA Senior Vice President, Mr. ANDO Naoki, stated that the report offers a real picture of progress and challenges for all stakeholders. He further stated that it must be read and understood by Member Countries, Development Partners, stakeholders, and private sector participants.

As Africa moves forward, bridging the substantial infrastructure financing gap remains a top priority. PIDA Phase 2 (2021-2030) requires substantial funding, estimated at \$161 billion. To address this, tapping into private sector investments, green bonds, and climate finance is essential. PIDA aims to attract long-term investment and develop bankable projects that appeal to global institutional investors.

AfDB Director for Infrastructure, Cities, and Urban Development, In a significant announcement, Mr. Mike Salawou highlighted the African Development Bank's commitment, having invested USD 15 billion in infrastructure projects since PIDA's inception.

As Africa stands on the threshold of unprecedented growth and prosperity, PIDA's unwavering focus on responsible stewardship of natural resources and environmental sustainability remains paramount. PIDA PAP2 is designed to maximize job creation, environmental sustainability, gender responsiveness, and connectivity between urban and rural populations, paving the way to "The Africa We Want."

For access to the PIDA First 10-Year Implementation Report, [Click here](#).



AUDA-NEPAD secures \$82bn investment commitments to finance infrastructure

African Union Development Agency AUDA-NEPAD says Investment commitments have exceeded the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plans from the initial target by \$14 billion to hit \$82 billion as at 2022. Idriss Adoum, Director for Infrastructure, Trade Industrialisation and regional integration at AUDA-NEPAD joins CNBC Africa to unpack the first ten-year implementation report and infrastructure financing strategies.

[Watch the interview here](#)

Advancing Rural Transformation: Outcomes of the SADC Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo



The SADC Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo (RITE), held on 27-28 September 2023 in Kinshasa, DRC, marked a significant milestone in the collective pursuit of rural development across Southern Africa. This gathering of 360 delegates exemplified a commitment to innovation, sustainable practices, and youth empowerment. The Expo, aligned with the visions of SADC, the African Union, and the United Nations, provided a platform for key stakeholders to share insights, showcase success stories, and set forth initiatives to drive positive change.

Key Actions and Initiatives

Launch of Senior Government Officials on Rural Transformation

One of the pivotal moments of the Expo was the recognition by senior government officials from SADC member

states of the critical importance of rural transformation. This acknowledgment was coupled with a resounding commitment to support both national and regional efforts. Central to this commitment is the role of Ministries in spearheading policy development, alignment, and rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Incubation and Support for Young Innovators

A beacon of hope for the future emerged as 22 young visionaries with innovative solutions for hunger and rural development were selected from SADC countries. This forward-looking initiative aims to equip these young entrepreneurs with the necessary resources, mentorship, and guidance to translate their ideas into viable, sustainable businesses. The support encompasses access to finance, essential inputs, market facilitation, storage facilities, agro-processing capabilities, and crucial technology training.



Supportive Frameworks and Declarations

These initiatives find their roots in various esteemed frameworks and declarations, including SADC's Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030. Additionally, the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly focusing on SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 8, offer guiding principles. The Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Transformation, endorsed by the AU, provides a robust foundation for replication and expansion across the African continent.

Key Recommendations

1. Innovative Financing Models

To fortify emerging, smallholder farmers, and youth-led agribusinesses, there is a call to create trust funds or establish a dedicated Southern African bank. This institution would be focused on facilitating access to finance, vital inputs, market linkages, storage, and agro-processing facilities, particularly targeting women and youth entrepreneurs.

2. Institutionalise Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo

A key suggestion is to elevate the Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo to an annual event, rotating its hosting among SADC member states. This strategic move aims to promote innovation, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, especially within the dynamic realm of rural development.

3. Research, Data Collection, and Documentation

To chart progress and gather invaluable best practices, there is an urgent need to support robust research and data collection efforts. This serves the dual purpose of documenting success stories and disseminating this knowledge across SADC countries.

4. Upscaling Smart Rapid Rural Transformation and Climate-Smart Agriculture

Replicating successful initiatives like smart villages and climate-smart agriculture technologies across SADC countries is crucial. By doing so, sustainable agricultural practices can be promoted, thereby enhancing rural resilience, strengthening market linkages, and ensuring equitable access to natural resources.

5. Digital Literacy and Technology Training

Empowering young, small-scale farmers with digital literacy and technology training is essential. This initiative enables them to actively engage in e-commerce and digital entrepreneurship. It is equally important to enhance access to technology and digital platforms that can significantly contribute to their economic empowerment.

With the collective efforts of WFP, FAO, AUDA-NEPAD, SADC, and their partners, the call to action attached to this Expo is set to be implemented. The Expo served as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration, and the launch of initiatives aimed at promoting rural transformation and supporting young innovators in SADC member states. Moving forward, the implementation of these recommended actions will be instrumental in achieving inclusive growth, sustainable development, job creation, and economic empowerment for the youth and women in the region. The partnership between government entities, development partners, the private sector, and civil society will be pivotal in realizing these shared objectives.

Meeting Africa's Growing Energy Needs in a Sustainable, Affordable and Efficient Way



According to the African Union Development Agency, the energy needs of the African continent are expected to more than triple by 2040. To help countries to address this growing demand for energy and meet socioeconomic needs in a clean, sustainable, and affordable way, the IAEA and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have been supporting, as official modelling partners, the development of the Continental Power System Masterplan (CMP) in Africa since 2021.

In the margins of the IAEA's 67th General Conference, experts from different international organizations, including the European Union, shared the vision behind the CMP and discussed its key deliverables, which were adopted by the African Ministers of Infrastructure and Energy earlier in September and are due to be presented to the African Union assembly next year for final endorsement by African heads of state.

Power systems in Africa are organized into four subregions or 'power pools', each of which faces different challenges based on available resources, infrastructure and needs. *"These power pools are the building blocks of the future African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), because by connecting neighbouring countries*

from different power pools, the end result will be a fully integrated electricity market," said Stephen Dihwa, Executive Director of the Southern Africa Power Pool. The process has already started by connecting the electricity grids of Tanzania and Zambia, resulting in the integration of the East African and South African power pools from Cape Town to Cairo.

Going forwards, the CMP will act as the 'blueprint' for the AfSEM and act as a central pillar in solving Africa's energy challenges. *"The collaborative work done so far shows what can be achieved when we all work together to achieve the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals,"* said Towela Nyirenda-Jere, head of the AUDA-NEPAD Economic Integration Division.

How will the CMP work?

The CMP will create a common and harmonized platform to support project decision making regarding the location, size and timing of investments in generation and transmission infrastructure. The priority generation and transmission projects that emerge from the CMP will make it possible for countries to take advantage of complementarities between national systems, with surpluses from some countries offsetting deficits in others,

leveraging national and regional diversity in resources and demand.

Given the undeniable effect that climate change is already having on the continent, the CMP is an opportunity for Africa to compare different energy scenarios, pooling resources to invest in green and sustainable sources of energy from the word go to solve its growing energy challenges.

"Africa needs to take full advantage of its rich energy resources to achieve an affordable and sustainable clean energy transition," said Wei Huang, Director of the IAEA's Division of Planning, Information and Knowledge Management. *"Proper and timely energy planning to support decision making is key to meeting the objectives in terms of energy sourcing, distribution and storage."* The IAEA, in cooperation with other partners, has been supporting countries in Africa on building energy planning capacity and will continue to do so in their pathway towards a low carbon future.

The development of cross-border energy infrastructure will culminate in the development of a fully integrated continental electricity market that will enhance trade and increase access to electricity for Africa's 600 million people without connections to the power grid. It will enhance the socioeconomic development of the African continent by providing low cost and carbon-free energy for agriculture, industry, communications and trade under the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Together with IRENA and other international organizations, the IAEA has actively supported the development of the CMP since 2021 by sharing training, expertise and resources with regard to energy planning and modelling.

AfCFTA and AIDA implementation at helm of discussions in Kigali, Rwanda



“As we draw this session to a close, I want to emphasize the unwavering commitment of AUDA-NEPAD to the Impact Assessment Study. We are fully aware of the extended mandate bestowed upon us and are prepared to collaborate closely with all stakeholders. Our collective efforts are aimed at fulfilling the vision set forth by our Heads of State and Governments in Niamey last year. We are committed to transforming challenges into opportunities and making significant strides towards our shared goals” CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas

On the 25th November 2023 in Niger’s capital, Niamey, a declaration was made during the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Industrialization and Economic Diversification, that the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and with the support of other Partners should undertake country impact assessments on the implementation of Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and the AfCFTA.

The impact assessment is an essential tool for policy formulation and management. It is also a vital instrument for channelling stakeholder engagement and communicating the ramifications of policy changes, which Member States need to consider in implementing AIDA and AfCFTA within

their national development plans.

In this regard, on the 28th September 2023, AUDA-NEPAD, AUC and AfCFTA convened the kick-off impact assessment study workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting was attended by representatives from Afreximbank, Afrochampions, ITC, JICA, UNECA, UNIDO, and the Academia and Think-Tank.

Noting the expectations from Niger’s Summit, the workshop aimed at sensitizing all relevant stakeholders about the roadmap for implementing this project, launching the First Implementation phase through the development of a Standard Assessment Guide and to generally create visibility and awareness: to support the successful implementation of the impact assessment study.

During the workshop, the participants-experts in their field, drew critical

lessons and best practices learnt, proposed specific policy actions to push the respective implementation process forward, recommend an integrated, harmonized, and effective monitoring, evaluation, and reporting framework whereby all relevant stakeholders can effectively gather information to in essence accelerate AfCFTA’s and AIDA’s work, with the overall objective of achieving the vision of a prosperous Africa!

Zanzibar hosts deliberations on Africa's energy future



The Continental Master Plan (CMP) has completed its final analysis, urging a concerted effort to plan and coordinate energy infrastructure on a continental scale. The reports were presented for validation at the Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIIE) held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, from 12th to 15th of September 2023.

The demand for electricity in Africa, where an estimated 600 million are without access, is projected to rise significantly by 2040 due to factors such as rapid population growth, industrialisation, urban migration, higher household incomes, and the impacts of climate change. However, achieving universal access to electricity by 2030 seems unlikely based on the current baseline business as usual projections.

To curb the trajectory, a substantial increase in investments is necessary to raise Africa's installed electricity generation capacity from 266 GW currently to around 1,218 GW by 2040. Meeting this ambitious target will require an estimated cumulative investment of USD 1.29 trillion and could result in the creation of a strong continental electricity market valued at USD 136 billion by 2040. It also requires a long-term planning

process to increase regional electricity interconnections and tackle energy poverty on the continent.

A unique example of collaboration and capacity-building among energy experts

From 12-15 September, energy stakeholders from across the continent and beyond gathered in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on the sidelines of the AU STC-TTIIE, the Ministerial decision-making organ of the AU for the transport and energy sectors, as well as overall infrastructure development matters. Final deliverables of the CMP were presented for validation by the STC, including the Updated Planning Scenario and Sensitivity Analysis Results Report, the Updated Transmission Network Studies Report, the Synthesis of Results Report, the Continental Masterplan Models

Documentation Report, and the CMP Digital Visualisation Report.

Ensuring commitment and contributions from all parties involved in the development of the CMP is of paramount importance to combat energy poverty in the continent. The same goes for establishing a common understanding on the CMP modelling activities and results among different energy stakeholders.

In this context, the second phase of the CMP has concluded with extensive consultations and stakeholder meetings, and a strong emphasis on consensus-building, shared ownership and sustainability.

“Agribusiness is my learning journey” – The 1st Master Trainer Network Conference to further promote successful agribusiness training



On 12 September 2023, the Business Support Facility for Resilient Agricultural Value Chains (ABF4VC) project commenced its first Master Trainer Network Conference titled *“Agribusiness is my Learning Journey”*, in a conference hosted by the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD.

Launched in March 2023, the ABF4VC project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in partnership with AUDA-NEPAD. The project is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) with an overall budget of 56 million euros.

Experts for successful agribusiness training approaches, such as the Farmer Business School (FBS), come together for exchanges, updates, and strengthening of an already strong network to boost African agricultural sectors further. More than 1.7 million smallholders from 25 African countries have benefitted under FBS, with success backed by a strong network of Master Trainers, who frequently train new trainers for FBS, cooperative management, and processing of products.

Cooperation between AUDA-NEPAD and the Agribusiness Facility for Africa (ABF) on agribusiness skills for human capacity development has been going on since 2020. Agribusiness skills upgrading has been carried out for Youth and Women MSMEs in several countries across the continent.

“As we invest in agripreneur training and embrace cutting-edge technologies, we ignite a revolution in agribusiness positively impacting millions in our continent. Elevating smallholder producers, especially women and youth, to entrepreneurs is the linchpin for women and youth in agribusiness and paves the way for innovation in IT, marketing, and beyond. Moreover, collaboration with financial institutions is crucial, ensuring agriculture is not just sustenance, but a thriving, bankable business.” Said Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotagbong, Director of Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability (AFSES) at AUDA-NEPAD, during her opening remarks.

The inception of the hybrid Master Trainer Network Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 11 - 19 September 2023, has brought together 60 Master Trainers from 17 countries and more than 40 additional Master Trainers participating virtually. The diverse conference programme started with the certification ceremony for new Master Trainers and the honouring of well-experienced Master Trainers

and continued with several interactive plenary sessions, simulations, and group works.

Representatives of the European Union (EU), OACPS, the German embassy, and AUDA-NEPAD emphasized that the members of the conference with highly diversified experiences will develop strategies for the sustainable creation of jobs for women and youth and strengthen the public-private dialogue to overcome bottlenecks in the value chains.

The conference aims to update all Master Trainers regarding innovations in the various training approaches, especially on topics like climate-smart agribusiness, information and communication technology (ICT), gender transformative approaches, and inclusion. It will also refresh their knowledge of training contents, methodology, and andragogy principles. Jointly, the Master Trainers will build the basis for founding an international Agribusiness Trainer Association to ensure the sustainable continuation and anchoring of the approaches in a self-governed manner.

The ABF4VC aims to develop and improve the capacities of actors along OACPS members’ agricultural value chains and to attract finance and investment towards low-emission and climate-resilient practices and value chains. [Read the full article here](#)

GUEST BLOG

For Africa, climate change is a matter of Ubuntu and justice

By Wanjira Mathai

In the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, we'll come together to chart a common narrative and pathway of our position on the global crisis, which must be grounded in justice for our people. We must seize our chance to transform people's lives and livelihoods throughout the continent.

It is up to us not only to be part of the climate debate, but to lead it. Make no mistake, Africa has historically produced so few greenhouse gases in comparison to Europe and the US, yet we are disproportionately bearing its consequences.

We need an African response to this international crisis, which is anchored in the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. It is essential we come together with a common purpose — civil society, businesses, and governments — to ensure our needs are at the front and center in ongoing negotiations, here in Nairobi and later at COP 28 in Dubai.

This is a moment like no other because it is the difference between life and death. The recent IPCC report set out clearly that Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world, at a pace that is hard for communities to keep up with. The summit is a battering ram that has opened up new spaces for dialogue to sharpen our vision for Africa's transformation.

Africa is home to the solutions, but for Africa, and the world, to thrive, wealthy countries' commitments to deliver finance on adaptation, loss and damage must be delivered. We cannot let the promise of climate finance, including the previous and unmet annual commitment of \$100 billion (per year from 2020 to 2025) be ignored. Africa needs \$579 billion this decade to adapt.

If wealthy governments deliver this finance it will bring jobs, and in turn dignity, self-reliance, and a livable future to underserved and under-developed regions throughout the continent. For



instance, our smallholder farmers, who have tried-and-trusted on-the-ground solutions for building healthy farms and forests, with the right injection of public and private investment, could be scaled to landscape the Congo basin and then throughout the different ecosystems on the continent. These are solutions that build lasting resilience, and as Africans we must use our collective fora to advance our common position, across our different platforms.

Our dedication and in particular from civil society to making lives better does not absolve the global north from their historic and current responsibilities, by reneging its legal commitments and moral obligations. All of these issues should be on the table at the Africa Climate Summit, and I'll be there advocating for justice for Africa, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibility. We must use this opportunity to shape a common vision for Africa, through a dialogue that builds President Ruto's vision for Africa's Green, Climate-Positive Economic Growth.

So, pay close attention to what happens at the Africa Climate Summit. That means wealthy countries delivering on their climate finance promises, capitalising on our abundance of our continent's renewable energy, responsibly leveraging our critical minerals, and supporting our young people in leading the way.

Presiding over the summit should be the spirit of ubuntu, that uniquely African concept that recognises that

the identity and destiny of each of us is wrapped up in the identity and destiny of all. That's certainly the case when it comes to the climate crisis, where no matter where you live in the world, the consequences of atmospheric and oceanic heating —catastrophic floods, crippling droughts, more powerful and frequent hurricanes, and the displacement of tens of millions of people as a result — are affecting everyone, rich or poor.

The truth is that if we don't act on this global problem, those disasters will only continue to occur with greater intensity and more often. That's more land lost to water, more water lost to land, more farms going under, and food and lives lost.

We cannot adapt against abject poverty and, therefore, building lasting resilience is about lifting people out of it and giving them a chance to break cycles of generational poverty once and for all. This is a truly special African moment.

This blog was first published Nation newspaper of Kenya. It's being republish by the permission of the author, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, the Managing Director for Global Partnerships and Africa, World Resources Institute.

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Second Call for Proposals as part of the EU SIFA Innovation Funding Window III



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
**GRANT
FUNDING**
FOR YOUR INNOVATIVE
EMPLOYMENT PROJECT?

The Skills Initiative for Africa Financial Cooperation is an African Union Commission intervention implemented by the African Union Development Agency and supported by the German Government and the European Union through KfW Development Bank. The Initiative providing grants for selected projects through a competitive evaluation process in eight African countries.

The EU SIFA Innovation Funding Window III is designed to support innovative skills development solutions in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which showcase improved or new ways of making skills more accessible, relevant, and recognised for employability.

The second Call for Proposals of Funding Window III will open on September 21, 2023. It will seek applications for innovative, high-quality, and multi-dimensional TVET projects in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia.

Professional TVET entities from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society, and organisations supporting skilling for enhanced employability, self-employment, and entrepreneurship from the countries mentioned are eligible to submit project proposals. The Programme will award co-financing grants up to EUR 400.000 per project through a competitive application process. The applicant is obligated to contribute 10% in cash or in-kind from its own funds to complete the project finance.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a project proposal under the following three themes:

1. Digital Tools and Skills: The delivery of TVET via digital technologies and applications to enhance employability in the post-COVID-19 era. The projects funded under this theme aim to promote innovative ideas to ensure continuous training delivery during disruptive crises such

as the COVID-19 pandemic. It builds on accelerating digitalisation and subsequent demands of the Future of Work where access to skilling does not depend on physical boundaries, costly lodging or travel.

2. Female Entrepreneurship and Employability: TVET supports enhanced employability and enterprise creation amongst women, youth, and vulnerable groups. This theme seeks to fund projects improving the take-up of innovative solutions to support female entrepreneurs and to promote the skilling of women and youth to increase their resilience in the labour market against economic challenges and disruptive crises such as COVID-19.

3. Training Innovation in Informal Sectors: Innovation in TVET to deliver training and skills in informal sectors and vulnerable groups. This theme seeks to provide opportunities for projects enhancing the basic skilling of disadvantaged women and youth, refugees, and internally displaced persons.

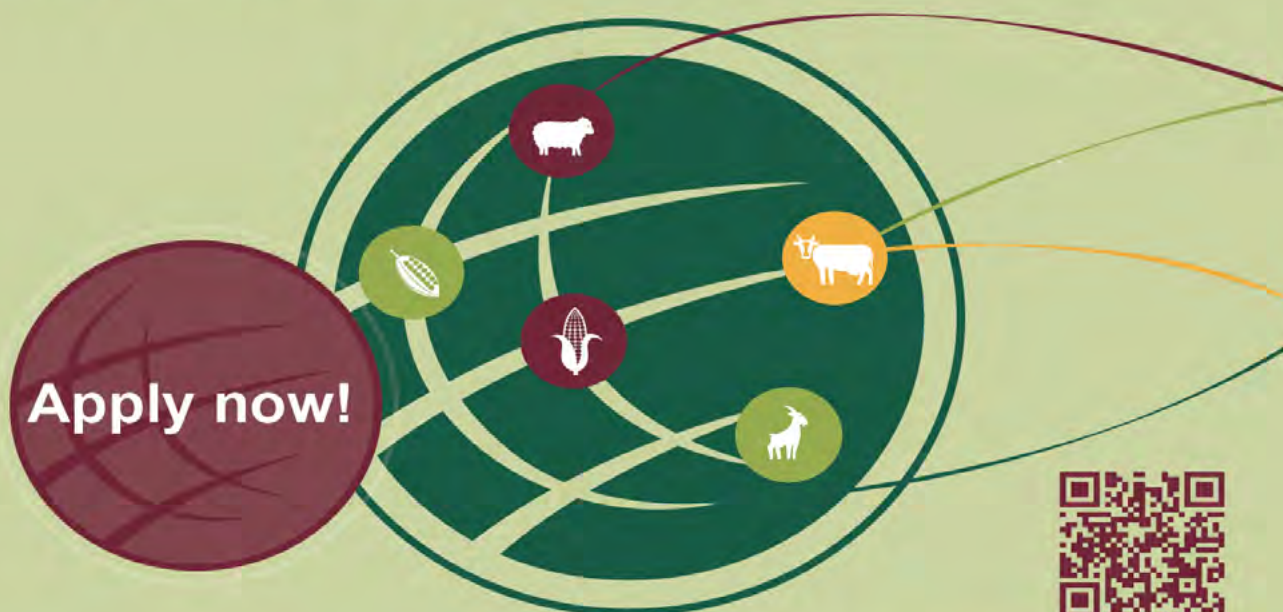
How to Apply

- The Guide for Applicants will be available on the SIFA website when the Call opens.
- TVET entities and other interested organisations must be publicly accredited and/or legally registered formal entities to apply. SIFA supports projects submitted by registered legal entities as stand-alone applicants or as partnerships between organisations or institutions.
- All submissions will be made online via SIFA's application system SmartME on the SIFA website, with the same submission deadline for all countries.
- SIFA will begin the evaluation process by checking the proposals' eligibility, and then independent TVET innovation experts will conduct a technical evaluation.

For more information about SIFA and the application process, visit our website at <https://skillsafrica.org/>

Call for Concept Notes: Cocoa, Maize, Livestock

Matching Grant Fund (MGF) for Climate-Resilient Value Chains



www.agribusiness-facility.org/funding.html

Apply now to the Matching Grant Fund (MGF) for Climate-Resilient Value Chains covering the value chains cocoa, maize, cattle, sheep and goat in all member states of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)

18 September - 10 November 2023

Are you working in the cocoa, maize, or livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) sectors in a member state of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific states? Are you from the private sector, with a high interest in resilience, competitiveness, or direct supply linkages with off-takers for sustainability?

Do you have an innovative idea that makes the above-mentioned value chains less fragmented, more inclusive, particularly for women and youth, sustainable, and profitable? This also includes innovations for by-products of the sectors.

Then this is a unique opportunity for you to realize your goal!

Matching Grant Fund (MGF)

By applying for this MGF, you can obtain funding to realize your project idea in the named value chains!

For all MGF projects, the maximal contribution channeled via ABF will account for up to 50% of the total project budget. This contribution can go up to 200.000 €.

Who can apply?

As lead applicants:
Processing company

- Agricultural producer/Farmer's organization
- National or international retailer companies

As consortium partners:

- Private sector foundations
- (Micro) Financial institutions
- Qualified NGOs
- Training or research institutions or extension agencies

[Read the guidelines here](#)

When & how to apply?

Documents to fill and send back via abf-fund@giz.de between 18th September 2023 and 10th November 2023, 11:59 pm GMT:

- Template for concept note (Annex 1)
- Letter of Intent (Annex 2)
- Working aid: Contribution Excel sheet (Annex 4 - please use Annex 3 as a guideline on how to fill it)

Please find the application documents below in our download section.

[Click here to apply](#)

Appointments at the AUDA-NEPAD: July-August 2023

Mr. Kenneth Nkemakolam Onu, a national of Nigeria has been appointed as Principal Programme Officer Therapeutics, African Union Smart Safety Surveillance (AU-3S), within the Science Technology and Innovation Unit, with effect from 01 August 2023. Mr Onu holds a Master of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Analysis and a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy.

Prior to his appointment as Principal Programme Officer Therapeutics, African Union Smart Safety Surveillance, Mr Onu was a Chief Regulatory Officer, Pharmacovigilance Directorate at the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control in Nigeria.

Mrs. Sumbi Mukumba Shimwambwa, a national of Zambia has been appointed as Senior Programme Officer - Water Infrastructure, within the Infrastructure Trade Industrialisation and Regional Integration Division, with effect from 15 August 2023. Mrs. Shimwambwa holds a Master's degree in Engineering and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Prior to her appointment as a Senior Programme Officer - Water Infrastructure, Mrs. Shimwambwa was a Performance Improvement Specialist - USAID's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Finance in Zambia.



Mrs. Christelle Onana a national of Cameroon has been appointed as Senior Policy Analyst, within within the Infrastructure Trade Industrialisation and Regional Integration Division, with effect from 04 August 2023. Mrs Onana holds a Master's degree in Engineering (Computer Science) and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Prior to her appointment as Senior Policy Analyst, Mrs Onana was an independent consultant,



Mr. Kudakwashe Dandajena, a national of Zimbabwe has been appointed as Principal Programme Officer Technology Strategy, African Union Smart Safety Surveillance (AU-3S), within the Science Technology and Innovation Unit, with effect from 01 July 2023. Mr Dandajena hold a MSc in Computer Science.

Prior to his appointment as Principal Programme Officer Technology Strategy, African Union Smart Safety Surveillance, Mr Dandajena was a Programme Manager

for the Next Einstein Forum Community of Scientists at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Global Secretariat in Kigali, Rwanda.



Mr. Mutukwa Sikatala Ben Musole, a national of Zambia has been appointed as Senior Programme Officer - Climate Finance, within the Economic Integration Division, with effect from 01 July 2023. Mr Musole holds a Master of Environmental Management and a Master of Science in Geographical Information Science and Systems.

Prior to his appointment as a Senior Programme Officer - Climate Finance, Mr. Musole was a Junior Researcher, at the Green Climate Fund in South Korea.



Mr. Michael Minewyelet Minas, a national of Ethiopia has been appointed as Programmer and Data Protection Officer, within MIS Division with effect From 01 July 2023. Mr Minas Hold a Bachelor of Science in Networking and Data Communication.

Prior to his appointment as Programmer and Data Protection Officer , Mr Minas was a Web developer at UNECA (United Nation Economic Commission for Africa)



Dr Billy Omboki Ratemo, a national of Kenya has been appointed as a Programme Officer - Genome Editing within the Science Technology and Innovation Unit with effect from 01 July 2023. Dr Ratemo hold a Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Genetics and Breeding.

Prior to his appointment as Programme Officer - Genome Editing Dr Ratemo was a Biosafety Officer at National Biosafety Authority-Kenya.



Mr. Abdel-Nasser Daoud Kinefour, a national of Chad has been appointed as Senior Programme Officer Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's) within the Industrialization and Trade Division with effect from 01 July 2023. Mr Kinefour holds a Master's degree in International Strategy, Geoeconomics and Strategic Affairs.

Prior to his appointment as Senior Programme Officer Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME's), Mr Kinefour was a Consultant of the 100,000 MSME's Initiative at AUDA NEPAD.

Ms Masivuye Hazel Javu, a national of South Africa has been appointed as a Data Entry Clerk within Human Capital and Institutional Development Directorate , with effect from 01 July 2023, Ms Javu holds a Matric Certificate.

Prior to her appointment as Data Entry Clerk ,Ms. Javu was a Transcriber for Go Transcript.

Mr. Kabelo Hosiah Molefe a national of South Africa has been appointed as a Driver within Administration Division with effect from 01 July 2023, Mr. Molefe hold a Matric certificate.

Prior to his appointment as a Driver , Mr. Molefe was a Driver at Sun International Time Square in South Africa.



Mr. Garba Sani a national of Niger has been appointed as Senior Programme Officer Transport Infrastructure within the Economic Integration Division with effect from 15 July 2023 . Mr Sani holds a Master's degree in Transport Infrastructure.

Prior to his appointment as Senior Programme Officer Transport Infrastructure was an Infrastructure Programme Manager at European Union Delegation in Cote d'Ivoire, he has also worked as a Project Manager at Study and constructor companies.

HABARI