

Side-event during the eighth Joint Meeting of the Conference of the Africa's Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA and the Conference of the Economy and Finance Ministers of the African Union on the theme:

Financing Africa's Green Economy Transition

Africa has enjoyed remarkable economic growth over the past decade averaging about 4% GDP growth points annually. However, this performance is increasingly marred by extreme exposures to climate hazards characterized by frequent and unpredictable climate events such as droughts, floods, heat waves etc., Safeguarding the economic gains made so far, and maintaining a future growth trajectory will require new technical and financial measures to boost the resilience of current investments to changes in climate patterns, while at the same time undertaking the required transition and realignment of future economic investments towards low-carbon development pathways.

The current landscape of Africa's economy is dominated by small operational scales and smallholder investments especially in the private sectors whose forms and patterns of transition towards low carbon intensity that emphasize green and blue economy, need to be clearly defined and costed. For example, changing the operational scale of investments in striving for cost-effectiveness and in achieving the economy of scale constitute important aspects of Africa's transformation agenda.

Thus, available options for framing Africa's green and blue economy transition need to shed more light on the alignment of the continent's priority development goals which aim at alleviating poverty and improving human welfare through enhanced food, water and energy securities as stipulated by African Heads of State and Government during the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Malabo (Assembly/AU/Dec.538 (XXIII)).

While climate finance is critical for strengthening Africa's ability to address the impacts of climate change, local financial resources are also crucial in making the required transition towards green and blue economies.

Hence, the objective of the side event is to provide a platform and opportunity for stakeholders, including policymakers and experts to critically examine existing financing modalities under global climate change frameworks such as the Green Climate Fund, and other bilateral and national sources for promoting Africa's transition towards green and blue economies.

A number of questions will be addressed to guide the discussion:

The fact that African countries have embraced development options that will steer the continent toward blue and green economies is now fully established.

- With limited internal financial resources, skills and technology; what options does Africa have to facilitate a transition towards low carbon development?
- Are there any partnership windows such as South-South cooperation that can be explored to enhance financial resource flows for Africa's economic transformation?