



Wilton Park



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the UN Regional Climate Week for Africa and MENA

Access to Climate Finance

Tuesday 28 September 2021

0900-1030 Eastern Africa Time (0700-0830 British Summer Time)

Zoom meeting: [Register here](#)

COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action

The Paris Agreement provides us with a truly global framework for climate ambition and action. To unlock the full scope of the Paris Agreement, it is important that all countries can participate to their maximum potential and that a lack of capacity does not hold them back.

In its role as the incoming COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to better understanding the capacity building challenges faced by developing countries and climate finance recipients, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts, and to providing opportunities to share positive experiences and lessons learned across the world.

Session background

The COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action (COP26 Catalyst) is a UK COP26 Presidency initiative that will provide a framework to convene programmes, projects and expertise on capacity building across five thematic areas. The Access to Finance workstream under the COP26 Catalyst aims to unpack the overarching capacity building issue to understand in granular detail the issues vulnerable and least developed countries and climate finance recipients are facing and the practical actions and support they need to access finance.

The COP26 Catalyst Access to Finance Workstream has developed an Action Group representing diverse partners, which has been developing recommendations to address challenges to capacity building for access to finance. This session will provide an opportunity to hear early proposals for recommendations to address capacity building for access to finance, especially changes which might be made by finance providers, and to discuss best practice and challenges not already flagged from across the Africa and Middle East and North African region.

The COP26 Catalyst's Access to Finance workstream will complement the work of the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, which launched at the C&DM, but is separate from that initiative. The COP26 Catalyst's Access to Finance workstream responds to the need partners have raised during the conceptualisation of the Taskforce, as a forum to consider issues of institutional capacity to improve access to finance.

This is a draft programme and subject to amendments.

Session description

The aim of this virtual session at this year's UN Regional Climate Week for the African region is to understand the key challenges to capacity building to access climate finance and hear regional examples from finance recipients as to how capacity issues are being addressed or suggestions for how they might be addressed. It will also be an opportunity to hear how finance providers are addressing challenges and what changes to ways of working and available schemes and programmes to support capacity building might be made.

Session Objectives

- Hear challenges to access to finance and capacity building that partners in the region are facing, how they are being addressed and solutions for addressing these through finance recipient case studies
- Consider early suggestions for recommendations to support capacity building for access to finance, based on work of the COP26 Catalyst Access to Finance Activity Group
- Consider implementation and resourcing challenges for possible solutions
- Consider in more detail what providers of finance might be able to do to support capacity building for access to finance and refinement of initiatives to support access more broadly.

Simultaneous translation will be available in English, French and Arabic.

Agenda

Time (Uganda)	Theme and speakers (Speakers invited * denotes not confirmed)
0900-0915	COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action: Access to Finance Introductions Chair: Nancy Lee Programme Director, Wilton Park (3 min) High Level Opening Speaker: Alfred Okot Okidi Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda (5-10 min) Meera Murali Finance Negotiations, COP26 UK Presidency (5 min)
0915-0940	Panel 1: Access to Climate Finance: Addressing challenges to access to finance Summary of challenges raised <i>Representative from COP26 Catalyst Access to Finance Action Group: (5 min)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Overview of Access to Finance Working Group work and intended</i>

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	<p><i>outcomes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Summary of access to finance and capacity building challenges heard to date through regional meetings and in consultations</i>● <i>Early recommendations to date</i> <p>How partners are addressing challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Case studies about how partners have addressed challenges and best practice case studies of capacity building for access to finance from government, NGO, private sector organisations. (20 minutes)● Speakers<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Antwi-Boasiako Amoah, Deputy Director, Climate Vulnerabilities & Adaptation, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana○ Aissata B. Sall Sylla, Vice-chair of the Community of Practise for Direct Access entities (CPDAE), Coordinator of Climate Finance Unit, Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), Senegal○ Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)● Speakers will talk through their case studies of capacity building for access to finance.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What challenges to capacity building for access to finance has this work addressed?○ What are the key elements?○ How can climate finance providers and non-state actors support recipients to develop the capacity to access funds? <p><i>Each panellist will be invited to introduce themselves and then to speak for 3-4 minutes.</i></p>
0940-0950	<p>Audience interventions on capacity building challenges in the region</p> <p>Questions and comments from audience members building on issues raised by panellists during Panel 1.</p> <p><i>Audience members will be invited to raise their hands and the Chair will invite them to intervene. The Chair may invite panellists to respond to questions.</i></p>

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0950-1015	<p>Panel 2: Access to Climate Finance: Finance providers-ways of working and programmes to support capacity building for access to finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speakers from multilateral and regional development banks, climate funds and providers of finance, possibly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Farayi Madziwa, Coordinator of the Readiness Programme for Climate Finance, Adaptation Fund○ Mattias Frumerie, Head of Delegation to UNFCCC, Sweden○ Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Ag. Director and Manager, Climate and Green Growth Division, African Development Bank○ Ousmane Fall Sarr, Coordinator, West African Alliance for Carbon Markets and Access to Finance● Speakers will address the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What ways of working, programmes and schemes do you have in place to support capacity building for access to finance;○ What are the challenges you are seeing applicants have with accessing climate finance and how is your organisation addressing this?○ What opportunities are there for reforming financing schemes or ways of working to better support access and capacity to access finance? <p>Brief introductions from panellists on Panel 2 followed by panel presentation on specific case studies and examples of capacity building supporting access to climate finance.</p> <p>Each panellist will be invited to speak for 2-3 minutes.</p>
1015-1025	<p>Audience interventions on capacity building examples in action</p> <p>Questions and comments from audience members, building on issues raised during Panel 2 on examples in action.</p> <p>Audience members will be invited to raise their hands and the Chair will invite them to intervene. The Chair may invite panellists to respond to questions.</p>
1025-1030	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Meera Murali Finance Negotiations, COP26 UK Presidency</p>