



Concept Note

**Side Event co-organized by the African Development Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross
AfDB Pavilion, COP15**

Fragile Contexts: Putting communities, private sector and resource mobilization center-stage at COP15

*Date: 11th May 2022/Time: 14h00 – 15h00
Format: Hybrid (Room: Business Forum -MET 13)*

Background and Context

Communities affected by fragility, violence, conflict and climate change are in particular need for scaled up resources to foster resilience. Over 250 million Africans have been affected by fragility before the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing humanitarian and food crises as a result of conflicts and climate change remain to a large extent unaddressed, undermining livelihoods, peace and stability. There is an urgent need for durable solutions for the over 32 million Africans forcibly displaced (as refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)) and their hosting communities across the African continent.

Guided by the Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Development Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, High-5s and sector/country/regional strategies, bottom-up, whole of government and whole of society approaches are needed to ensure do no harm and leaving no-one behind. On 2 March 2022, the Bank's Board of Directors approved the *3rd Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026)* and the *Climate Change Framework and Action Plan* was approved in November 2021.

The African continent did not cause and did not in any major form contribute to climate change. However, the continent is one of the most vulnerable to climate change and climate variability. Several African regions are considered climate-change hotspots and in several countries, ongoing conflicts and violence, water scarcity, damaged coastal infrastructure, poor crop yields and production undermine inclusive and sustainable development progress.

Cognizant of this, the African Development Bank has been and continues to support its Regional Member Countries in overcoming the multiplicity of complex, interlinked and context-specific challenges. This includes a focus on unlocking the tremendous opportunities and harness to positive role of women, youth, civil society and the private sector to foster resilience and durable solutions. This includes national and regional initiatives such as the Great Green Wall (GGW),

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, Desert to Power (DtP), Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones among many others.

During COP26, the African Development Bank (Climate Change and Green Growth Department together with the Transition States Coordination Office and the Bank's Gender, Women and Civil Society Department) worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to raise awareness of the climate funding gap for countries in fragile contexts (see [here](#) for more information). This needs to continue during COP15 themed '*Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity*', and later this year at COP27 in Egypt with regards to the specific emphasis and mandates of respective parties and partners. For COP15, this specifically includes an emphasis that communities and the private sector in fragile contexts are center-stage to contribute to solutions as well as to advance innovative resource mobilization, including from the diaspora, for combating land degradation in fragile settings.

Objectives

- Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience: ensure that the COP15 theme '*Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity*' includes countries and communities affected by fragility, conflict, violence and climate change
- Raise awareness of complex and compounded needs in fragile settings with an aim to facilitate innovative resource mobilization for transition states/fragile contexts at scale
- Share best practices on how to involve local communities, the private sector and development partners to prevent and reverse desertification and land degradation
- Mobilize States, donors, development and humanitarian actors to ensure that climate change adaptation and anticipatory measures are recognized as critical and supported by relevant policies and practice, such as through promoting the upcoming *Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations*

Guiding Questions

- How can COP15 parties and partners scale-up innovative resource mobilization and high-impact delivery to - with urgency - strengthen the resilience to climate risks on land, water and food security of communities enduring conflict?
- What are the operational, practical implications for people affected by conflict and violence, especially populations already marginalized including women and girls, internally displaced people, refugees and host communities?
- How can governments, private sector and partners turn the concrete recommendations into expedited actions?

Speakers and Format:

Introductory Remarks (5 minutes):

- **Al Hamndou Dorsouma, Acting Director Climate Change and Green Growth Department, AfDB:** framing the event, providing strong Africa-centric perspective and relevance to the topic of climate finance and COP15 theme in conflict settings, Bank initiatives with partners in transition states and fragile contexts such as Sahel, Lake Chad

Basin and Horn of Africa, need for scaled up, innovative resource mobilization etc. (moderator).

Interventions (5 minutes each):

- **Patrick Youssef, Director for Africa, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):** Immense needs in fragile contexts in Africa, ICRC approaches and innovations with regards to partnerships and resource mobilization
- **Andrew Harper, Special Advisor to the HC – DRS Climate Action, UNHCR** *Topic: land degradation and forced displacement; how to scale up resource mobilization to empower refugees, IDPs and hosting communities in Africa at scale*
- **Ms. Caroline Dumas, IOM Director General Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action (IOM)** *Topic: voluntary, safe, orderly and regular migration in times of climate and food crises; IOM's lessons learned and approaches, innovative resource mobilization to benefit migrants, displaced and hosting communities*

Moderated Discussion (40 minutes)

Registration:

https://afdb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fXc3i46cSF6PbKlujPXshQ

Streaming:

<https://www.facebook.com/AfDBGroup>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AfDBGroup/>



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