



EMEA WEBINARS

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

Thursday 04 November 2021, 15:00- 16:50 CET

INTRODUCTION

The recent report [AR6 The Physical Science Basis](#), presented by the Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August 2021, provides new evidence on global warming and the urgency of reducing CO₂ emissions in the coming decades. Failure to do so will make many regions of the planet uninhabitable for humans and other living species. According to the report, there is still time to avoid the highest temperature increase and impact scenario, but this will depend on several factors such as political will, the effectiveness of emission mitigation measures and access to sufficient funding to accelerate the implementation of actions. The Mediterranean region and the African continent are among the most affected areas in the world. According to the IPCC Report and regional factsheet¹, the Mediterranean and Africa will continue to be affected by rising surface temperatures and sea level rise, vulnerability to drought, and water scarcity. This scenario will have a severe impact on agriculture and forestry not only due the rise of aridity but also with a heightened risk of fire in protected terrestrial areas. On the other hand, cities will intensify human-induced warming locally, causing more frequent heatwaves and alteration to precipitation, increasing the risk of runoff intensity.

As Africa tends towards accelerated urban growth, urbanisation processes need to be accompanied by sustainability criteria, resilience strategies, sustainable infrastructure and targeted financing mechanisms to guide development of cities and towns in a way that is adapted to climate change and causes the least negative impact on the environment. Therefore, land use management and infrastructure provision based on natural solutions become an essential aspect in the development of emerging urban contexts in the Mediterranean and Africa. Integrated management of water cycles, renewable energies, and

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/factsheets/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Regional_Fact_Sheet_Africa.pdf

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

agroforestry is required for achieving more efficient urban metabolism and resilience to climate change. From green infrastructure at an urban level to protected areas on a territorial scale, vegetation and agroforestry should acquire an appropriate value in planning and climate policies.

According to the report² co-authored by Positive Agenda: "Post-COVID-19 Recovery in Africa: Recommendations for policy actors", the main investment priorities in the coming decades will be aimed at: linking clean energy with Post-COVID-19 recovery efforts, climate-smart agriculture, green transportation, quality data to drive the digital economy, and social protection tackling inequality, green industrial policy, environmental taxes and sustainable tourism. The report also provides recommendations for enhancing investment on green transition.

This webinar is co-organised by EMEA and Positive Agenda, with the aim of discussing the investment and financing priorities needed for a proper green transition in African countries, considering both climate change and post-COVID economic recovery constraints.

Agenda

Moderator:

Prof. Rym Ayadi, President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and Professor The Bayes Business School (Former CASS)

Speaker(s):

Dr. Cynthia Echave, Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)

Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke, Environment and Development, University of Reading

Kwame Sarpong Barnieh, Partner KPMG Ghana

Prof Ing Martin Lukac, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, University of Reading

Discussant(s):

Dr. Meggan Spires, Director of Climate Change, Energy & Resilience, ICLEI Africa

Hana Lakhdar Ghazal, Director General, Positive Agenda Advisory

Rapporteur: Sara Ronco, Researcher, EMEA

² <https://powershiftafrica.org/driving-a-green-and-sustainable-post-covid-19-recovery-in-africa-recommendations-for-policy-actors/>

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

How is the Green Transition Financed to Tackle Climate Change in the Mediterranean and Africa?

Positive Agenda Advisory

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ECONOMISTS ASSOCIATION



PROF. RYM AYADI
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KWAME SARPONG BARNIEH
Partner KPMG Ghana

HANA LAKHDAR GHAZAL
Director General, Positive Agenda Advisory.

DR. CYNTHIA ECHAVE
Climate scientist and Research Director at the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, Co-Chair Working Group I IPCC.

PROF ING MARTIN LUKAC
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, University of Reading.

PROF. CHUKWUMERIE OKEREKE
Environment and Development, University of Reading.

DR. MEGGAN SPIRES
Director of Climate Change, Energy & Resilience, ICLEI Africa.

Moderator

Prof. Rym Ayadi
President and Founder
Euro-Mediterranean Economists
Association



Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES); Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Academic member and Chair (2018-20) of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA- BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

Panellists

Dr. Cynthia Echave

Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association



Cynthia Echave is an architect and urban planner specialised in urban ecology. She has a Doctorate degree in Energy and Environment from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Her professional career is characterised by active participation in strategic ecosystem projects, working on the development of creative and innovative tools, methodologies and strategies for urban sustainability, sustainable urban mobility, public space and urban liveability, green infrastructure, and energy and urban metabolism. She is Senior Researcher at EMEA in charge of capitalisation projects involving research around sustainability, energy transition and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean and Africa.

Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke,
Environment and Development,
University of Reading



Professor Chukwumerije Okereke is the Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Development at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike, and a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Reading and Oxford. He is a globally recognized leading scholar on global climate governance and international development with expertise in climate justice, national green growth transition in Africa, climate adaptation and business climate strategies.

Professor Okereke was previously the Co-Director of the Center for Climate and Justice and Co-Director of the Reading University Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarship Programme. He was also Director of the Center for Climate Change and Development at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford. Over the last 20 years, Professor Okereke has maintained an extensive high-impact engagement with national governments, businesses and NGOs in Africa, and led on several high-profile international projects on climate change policy, mainstreaming, and green economy transition in Africa,

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

including the UNDP funded Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) commissioned by the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the Analysis of the Adaptation Components in Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) commissioned by the African Development Bank, and the Rwandan Green Growth and Climate Resilience Project, which was the first-ever national low-carbon plan in Africa.

Professor Okereke is the Coordinating Lead Author of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report. He has served as Lead Author on other major global scientific assessment projects including the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degree global warming, the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, and the United Nations Environment Programme's Urbanization, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services Assessment. Professor Okereke is a member of the Steering Committee of the Earth System Governance Project and a leading member of the Global Earth Commission's Safe and Just Transformation Working Group. Professor Okereke is a member of the editorial board of several highly reputed journals in the field, including Global Environmental Politics, Business and Sustainable Development, Earth Systems Governance, and International Studies Review.

Professor Okereke has published widely in the field, given a countless number of keynote speeches, and been interviewed by leading media houses in the world including BBC News, BBC World Services, France24, China Global Television Network, Channels TV, AriseTV, and several others.

HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

Kwame Sarpong Barnieh
Partner KPMG Ghana



Kwame is a Partner for Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance. He has over 18 years' experience working across various dimensions of Internal Audit (IA), Risk Assessment & Management, Governance, and Compliance Review. He works with clients in diverse industries to understand their business environments to generate sustainable returns through the assessment, design and implementation of Enterprise Risk Management, Governance, Compliance, Internal Controls and Internal Audit frameworks. As a lead facilitator for KPMG's external training programmes, he designs and facilitates training programmes across various disciplines. Kwame is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Global Management Accountant.

Prof Ing Martin Lukac
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, University of Reading



Martin Lukac is a Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Reading and holds a visiting position at the University of Life Sciences in Prague. He has more than 20 years of experience in research on plant physiology and ecology, genetic and functional diversity and climate change. He specialises in the study of terrestrial ecosystem productivity, carbon cycling and ecosystems storage, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a specific focus on forestry and agroforestry. He has published more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, numerous books and book chapters. He has participated in and led a number of national and international research and science communication projects. Currently, he supervises six doctorate students undertaking research on topics ranging from agroforestry to forestry, soil science, crop modelling and organic farming.

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Discussants

Dr. Meggan Spires

Director of Climate Change, Energy & Resilience, ICLEI Africa



Dr Meggan Spires is ICLEI Africa’s Director of Climate Change, Energy and Resilience. The unit she manages serves ICLEI Africa’s 300+ network cities in over 26 African countries, supporting their journeys towards climate resilience. Meggan and her team manage a suite of multi-year, multi-country programmes and projects in fields such as energy access, climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation. Their work involves capacity building, policy development, on-the-ground implementation, and unlocking climate finance at the city-scale. Meggan is currently the Principle Investigator for a number of cutting-edge research development programmes on the continent, and sits on a number of international policy advisory boards. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Rhodes University, and prior to joining ICLEI Africa worked as a Climate Protection Scientist at eThekweni Municipality (Durban), where she was involved in the development Durban’s climate change programme.

Hana Lakhdar Ghazal

Director General, Positive Agenda Advisory.



Hana is the Managing Director of Positive Agenda Advisory (P2A). P2A is an advocacy, business development and executive strategy firm, aiming to help their clients in their growth strategy. Over the last 15 years, Hana has developed good knowledge in consultancy, business development, public policy implementation and expertise in strategy, organization and transformation. She started her career in 2006 in international development. She moved to Morocco in 2010, working first as a public servant, and then as a consultant for the private and public sectors, including for international institutions such as The World Bank. For the last 3 years she has also worked as a consultant with AfDB in setting up a delivery unit for the Head of Government Office in Morocco and with MCA-Morocco on supporting the Secondary Education Project in Morocco, as well as with J-PAL MIT in setting up and running a Public Policy Impact Evaluation Lab in Morocco.

Hana holds an MSc. in Management from ESCP Europe and a Master in Moroccan History from Université Paris 1-Panthéon La Sorbonne.