

The Road to COP27

Making Africa's Case in
the Global Climate Debate

15 Key Recommendations
from the 2022 Ibrahim
Governance Forum

25-27 MAY 2022



“It is clear that the current climate agenda is failing Africa. When over 600 million in Africa still lack access to electricity, equivalent to twice the total US population, we need to pause and think very hard.”

“With COP27 fast approaching, we must not repeat the mistake of overlooking Africa’s specificity, both negative and positive, in the assessment of challenges and choice of solutions. The 15 recommendations put forward by the 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum offer a blueprint to reshape the climate debate, ensure it takes into account Africa’s specific context, and acknowledge Africa’s key role in global climate solutions.”

Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

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15 Key Recommendations from the 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum

The 25-27 May 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum aimed to help inform and articulate Africa's position, exactly six months ahead of the UNFCCC COP27 summit hosted by Egypt and immediately following the UNCCD COP15 summit hosted by Côte d'Ivoire.

To ground debates on the most recent and relevant data, the Ibrahim Forum Report provided a fact-based analysis on three main priorities:

- Adaptation: the specific impacts of the climate crisis in Africa, and how these intersect with pre-existing social and development issues such as poverty, food insecurity, instability;
- Energy: the challenge of balancing access to energy and climate protection, in the continent with the largest energy gap globally;
- Potential: Africa's promising role in the global fight against climate change, if financial, human and governance hurdles are overcome.

The 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum discussions led to the formulation of 15 Key Recommendations aimed at ensuring Africa's agenda is placed at the heart of continental and global agreements and policy actions on the way - and beyond - COP27.

This document provides a snapshot of the Key Facts and Figures of the 2022 Ibrahim Forum Report and a full overview of the 15 Key Recommendations from the 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum.

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- Between 1960 and 2020, Africa only accounted for 3.3% of global emissions. Asia, Europe and North America have each emitted over eight times the carbon of Africa.
- In Africa, temperatures are increasing faster than the global average, and they are projected to continue doing so during the rest of the 21st century.
- Africa is the most affected of all world regions by droughts and the second most affected by floods, with at least 215.3 million people affected over 2010-2022.
- Africa has only one eighth of the minimum density of weather stations recommended.
- The ten most climate vulnerable countries globally are in Africa, hosting 20.1% of the continent's population.
- GDP per capita is on average 13.6% lower in Africa than it would be if anthropogenic warming between 1991 and 2010 had not occurred.
- In eight of the ten most climate vulnerable countries in Africa at least 60% of the working population are employed in the highly climate sensitive agricultural sector.
- On average, more than two-thirds of the population in Africa's most climate vulnerable countries are living in poverty.
- 39.7 million additional people in sub-Saharan Africa could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change, more than in any other world region.
- About 70% of African cities are highly vulnerable to climate shocks with small and medium sized towns and cities most at risk.
- More than two-thirds of the population in at least seven out of Africa's eleven most disaster-prone countries experience food insecurity.
- In 2021, Madagascar was the first country in the world to face a famine solely due to the consequences of climate change.
- Climate change is forecasted to push an additional 78 million people into chronic hunger by 2050, over half of them in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Half of the ten most climate vulnerable countries are among the ten countries with the lowest gender equality on the continent.
- Africa faces the worst climate-related security risks, the majority of them linked to water.
- In Egypt, Burkina Faso and Sudan over 60% of violent events occurred in provinces suffering from extremely high water stress.
- Since 2010, the number of protests and riots in Africa over water resources have multiplied by 40.
- In 2020, 4.3 million persons in Africa were newly displaced by natural disaster events, accounting for almost 40% of all new internal displacement on the continent in that year.
- While almost three-quarters of African countries have achieved SDG13 on climate action, no EU or North American countries is on track for achieving the same.

- More than one-third (35.2%) of all new disaster IDPs are based in the ten most climate vulnerable countries.
- Africa accounts for 17% of world's population but only 5.9% of world's energy supply.
- Just over half (55.7%) of the 1.3 billion people living in Africa have access to electricity, as opposed to over 90% for the rest of the world.
- Power shortages cost the continent about 2% to 4% of GDP a year.
- Less than one in three people living in Africa have access to clean cooking fuels.
- Almost 490,000 premature deaths per year in sub-Saharan Africa are related to household air pollution from the lack of access to clean cooking facilities.
- Twenty-two African countries already utilise renewables as their main electricity source.
- Five of the ten countries at global level with the highest solar potential are in Africa.
- Hydropower is the continent's primary renewable with 70% of the renewable electricity share.
- Africa is only tapping into 0.01% of its wind power potential.
- In the Sahel, full mobilisation of technical wind potential would increase electricity capacity more than 30-fold in Chad, Mauritania, Niger and Mali.
- Africa accounted for 41% of the world's new gas discoveries between 2011-2018.
- Gas accounts for less than 10% of the total domestic energy supply in half of the continent's 18 gas producers.
- The share of fossil fuels in energy supply is lower in Africa than in other regions.
- If the whole of sub-Saharan Africa (minus South Africa) were to triple its electricity consumption using entirely gas it would only add 0.6% to global carbon emissions.
- For every \$10 dollars invested in the African energy sector since 2015, just over \$1 dollar went on transmission and distribution.
- Africa is home to almost one quarter of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, to 20.2% of the world's land, 65% of its arable land and around one sixth of the world's remaining forests.
- The Congo Basin constitutes the world's second largest rainforest, absorbing an estimated 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.
- Africa holds 30% of the world's mineral reserves, which will be critical to renewable and low-carbon technologies.
- Sub-Saharan Africa receives just 5% of total climate finance outside the OECD.
- 23 of 26 African countries with data spend more on debt servicing than on climate adaptation.
- In 2019, only roughly one quarter of climate finance mobilised globally was spent on adaptation.
- The financial gap between what is available and what is needed in Africa for meaningful adaptation stands at 80%.

Wednesday 25 May 2022

Opening keynote – Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Panel Session 1: *Africa's vicious cycle: low resilience worsens, and is worsened by, climate change*

- **Moderator:** Zeinab Badawi, BBC
- Ibrahim Cheikh Diong, UN Assistant Secretary General, Director of the African Risk Capacity Group
- Natasha Kimani, MIF Now Generation Network
- Murithi Mutiga, Programme Director for Africa of the International Crisis Group
- Emilia Siwingwa, MIF Now Generation Network

Mo in conversation with... H.E. President Macky Sall, Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Republic of Senegal

Thursday 26 May 2022

Opening keynote – David Malpass, President of the World Bank Group

Panel Session 2: *The elephant in the room: what's an acceptable trade-off between development and climate goals?*

- **Moderator:** Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Gerald Chirinda, MIF Now Generation Network
- Chris Gentle, Senior Advisor New Business Ventures of the World Energy Council
- Mamadou Fall Kane, Energy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Senegal
- Sidi Ould Tah, Director General of the Arab Bank for Economic Development
- Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network

Friday 27 May 2022

Opening keynote – Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

Panel Session 3: *Africa's assets are key for a global sustainable future*

- **Moderator:** Christine Mhundwa, Deutsche Welle
- Jin-Yong Cai, former CEO of the International Finance Corporation
- Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt
- Barkha Mossae, MIF Now Generation Network
- Nasi Rwigema, MIF Now Generation Network
- Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO of the Africa Finance Corporation

Final keynote – Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General United Nations

Handover Session – *Africa's priorities for COP27*

- **Moderator:** Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Georgie Ndirangu, NGF moderator
- Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders
- Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO of the Africa Finance Corporation

**ADAPTATION: TAKE AFRICA'S SPECIFIC CLIMATE
VULNERABILITIES INTO ACCOUNT**

RECOMMENDATION 1. Do not work in silos: address the interaction between climate, development and security challenges

RECOMMENDATION 2. Mitigation alone cannot address the scope of the problem: increase focus on adaptation and 'loss and damage' compensation

RECOMMENDATION 3. Invest in resilience to prevent loss and damage to lives, livelihoods and critical infrastructure

**ENERGY: ADDRESS AFRICA'S PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO
ENERGY ACCESS**

RECOMMENDATION 4. Balance net zero, energy access, and energy security

RECOMMENDATION 5. Consider gas as a key transitional fuel, to be developed in parallel with renewables

RECOMMENDATION 6. Whether for gas or renewables, look beyond just production alone

RECOMMENDATION 7. Clean cooking solutions are key to both climate and health goals

**POTENTIAL: HIGHLIGHT AFRICA'S POTENTIAL IN
A GLOBAL GREEN ECONOMY**

RECOMMENDATION 8. Raise awareness of Africa's assets and Africa's ability to be a key stakeholder of a global green economy - not just a victim of the climate crisis

RECOMMENDATION 9. Assess - and monetise - Africa's carbon-sequestration potential

RECOMMENDATION 10. Avoid the 'resource curse': add local economic value and frontload governance

**TOWARDS COP27: "YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU NEED OR
WHAT YOU DESERVE, YOU GET WHAT YOU NEGOTIATE"**

RECOMMENDATION 11. Define, present, and negotiate a Common African Position

RECOMMENDATION 12. Re-build trust lost through previous summits

RECOMMENDATION 13. Emphasise responsibilities

RECOMMENDATION 14. Adopt a wide range of integrated and innovative financial solutions

RECOMMENDATION 15. Give a human face to the climate debate

ADAPTATION: TAKE AFRICA'S SPECIFIC CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES INTO ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDATION 1.

Do not work in silos: address the interaction between climate, development and security challenges

- Climate change itself as well as climate-related policies -or lack thereof- have a major impact on development and conflict.
- Climate protection cannot be achieved by sacrificing the right of Africa's people to economically develop. Overlooking this will only lead to the failure of achieving key global commitments such as the UN SDGs.
- At the global level, debates and decision-making on development, climate, and conflict continue to progress in silos, failing to address the intertwined nature of these objectives, and thus feeding inefficiency.



Africa is particularly vulnerable to overlapping crises. The impact of drought on medium-term growth is about eight times higher in Africa than in any other region globally

David Malpass, President, World Bank Group

The devastating effects of climate change are robbing Africa of lives and livelihoods

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Africa is warming faster than the global average. At current levels of warming, most of Africa is already in 'danger zone'. By 2030, 108 to 116 million people in Africa will be exposed to sea level rise compared to 54 in 2000

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

In the last two years, almost one in 12 people in South Sudan have been displaced by flooding. In any other place in the world, that would be headline news everywhere

Murithi Mutiga, Programme Director for Africa, International Crisis Group

We Africans did not put that stuff up there (the carbon emissions). Yet the ten most climate vulnerable countries in the world are all African. Is that justice?

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

We need to have a balanced, holistic approach, that puts into consideration the climate agenda with poverty, nutrition, job opportunities, water, electricity...

Mahmoud Mohieldin, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt

RECOMMENDATION 2.

Mitigation alone cannot address the scope of the problem: increase focus on adaptation and 'loss and damage' compensation

- Increase global focus to climate change adaptation rather than just mitigation.
- Mainly driven by the Global North, the current global climate debate has up to now focused on climate change mitigation through the goal of achieving carbon-neutral economies.
- Accounting for just over 3% of global historical carbon emissions, the priority in Africa's fight against climate change is adaptation. The climate change adaptation pillar has, however, not received the same focus and level of commitment globally. Financial pledges towards adaptation remain small and mostly unrealised, while the majority of global financing is disbursed to industrialised middle-income countries for mitigation purposes.
- The responsibility of the Global North and high carbon-emitting countries to compensate developing countries adversely impacted by climate change they did little to cause has been discussed, including at COP26. However, no concrete actions were taken towards compensation measures, including the failure to establish a 'loss and damage' fund for developing countries.
- Negotiate adequate financial mechanisms for adaptation as well as for 'loss and damage' compensation.



Glasgow was a discussion on a global target for mitigation. There should also be a global target for adaptation.

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt

The narrative at African and local level is climate adaptation much more than mitigation, because mitigation is mainly for the developed world

Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

Building a more resilient Africa cannot mean slowing down development or the progress towards achieving SDG7 on energy

David Malpass, President, World Bank Group

RECOMMENDATION 3. Invest in resilience to prevent loss and damage to lives, livelihoods and critical infrastructure

- Early warning and disaster risk management systems based on the latest technology need to be at the heart of the climate agenda to anticipate natural disasters and prevent loss of lives and livelihoods and damage to critical infrastructure.
- African countries need to set up clear adaptation investment plans.
- A focus should be put on climate-resilient infrastructure, housing, and urban-planning.
- Step up Africa's climate research as well as statistical capacity.



There is a basic right for people to know what is going to happen

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt

50% of Africa and 60% of the Sahel population are uncovered by early warning systems. The UNSG has mobilised the international community to close the early warning gap, providing everyone with an early warning system in less than five years

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

Investment in resilient infrastructure has great potential to deliver urban and rural development in terms of power, sanitation, water and safe transport. The World Bank is implementing multiple projects to support Africa's resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change. We are committed to allocating a minimum of 50% of our total climate finance to adaptation

David Malpass, President, World Bank Group

Africa needs to build climate resilience, and specifically early-warning systems. Modelling risk and exposure will help taking the necessary measures in anticipation of disasters. National governments need to step up and be more forward looking in terms of not just humanitarian response, but looking at medium term measures to build resilience

Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Assistant Secretary General, Director African Risk Capacity Group, United Nations

ENERGY: ADDRESS AFRICA'S PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO ENERGY ACCESS

RECOMMENDATION 4.

Balance net-zero, energy access, and energy security

- Up to now the global energy debate has been focused on achieving net-zero emissions. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has recently forced a global shift towards the priority of energy security. Still missing from the picture is the critical issue of energy access, often side-lined in the debate. Access is a pre-requisite to discussing security.
- Over 600 million people still lack access to electricity in Africa. This constitutes a global injustice, while in the rest of the world 90% of the population have access to electricity.
- Going forward it is crucial that the priorities of net zero, energy security and access to energy are reconciled and addressed holistically.



Energy balance is a triangle: net-zero/ energy security/energy access. That triangle was destabilised by too much talk about net-zero and not enough about access or security. Without having energy security, net-zero, energy access in balance, we cannot not have an energy transition that works for everyone

Chris Gentle, Senior Adviser New Business Ventures, World Energy Council

Many young people in Africa are looking to leave due to a lack of energy access

Gerald Chirinda, MIF Now Generation Network, Founder & CEO of Future Africa Investments Limited

There is no development without power

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

The only enabling environment we need actually is ensured access to electricity

Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist NORCAP/FAO Uganda

People don't understand net-zero in rural villages. They don't even have access to electricity

Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist NORCAP/FAO Uganda

This COP will be different from other COPs because we cannot detach the climate discussion from the development discussion

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt

An essential element of COP27 must be a just, fair and equitable energy transition for Africa, one that recognises the unique and special situation and circumstances of Africa, and includes addressing and funding a transitional energy mix, reducing emissions, and providing energy access to the 600 million Africans who still lack it

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

RECOMMENDATION 5.
Consider gas as a key transitional fuel, to be developed in parallel with renewables

- Renewables are already the main source of electricity for almost half of Africa.
- However, renewables alone are unable to address the current energy gap on the continent.
- Natural gas, by far the least polluting fossil fuel, is abundant on the continent, and could constitute a transitional fuel to power Africa's development and close the electricity access gap.
- However, COP26 commitments to end international public fossil fuel financing are a major obstacle to exploit Africa's natural gas wealth, which is still mainly untapped.



Denying Africa's right to develop and use its own gas is morally unacceptable

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Natural gas is an important transition fuel to reduce carbon intensity

David Malpass, President, World Bank Group

Many countries have huge deposits of gas but cannot develop them due to a lack of capital

Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development

We are not asking for the right to pollute, but for the right to develop

Barkha Mossae, MIF Now Generation Network, AU Blue Economy Advisor

On the issue of energy, Europe is selling the idea of Africa to abandon gas and shift completely to renewables. Telling Africa this is akin to just holding them on the ground

Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

Development of hydrocarbons on the continent should not be restricted by decisions taken by the Global North

Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

It would be naïve to think that development can take place in Africa with no hydrocarbons at all

Chris Gentle, Senior Adviser New Business Ventures, World Energy Council

Allow Africa to catch up before you tell them to wean off

Georgie Ndirangu, MIF Now Generation Network, Global Moderator & Consultant, Portland Communications

RECOMMENDATION 6. Whether for gas or renewables, look beyond just production alone

- Improve efficiency and reduce losses by updating and expanding transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- Ensure the relevant market size to attract needed investments: this means regional scale, regional transport and regional distribution networks.
- Build maintenance, storage, transport capacities: this means public planning, financial resources and additional skills.
- Solve affordability bottlenecks.
- Improve governance and build capacity of institutions managing power grids.



Quite often what is missing is capacity to manage or maintain the energy grid. Connection to the grid is more a governance and institutional issue than an energy issue

Chris Gentle, Senior Adviser New Business Ventures, World Energy Council

Investment in gas is scary. No investor will go without a guarantee of purchase

Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development

Grid investments to absorb renewables will be key

David Malpass, President, World Bank Group

You need to guarantee a market for gas before production. In Africa, the issue is the economic model, as the domestic market is very scattered. We do not have the market because we do not have the infrastructure. We need to first create an integrated infrastructure to distribute to neighbours. The AfCFTA is a first step in this direction

Mamadou Fall Kane, Energy Advisor to the President of The Republic of Senegal

\$6 trillion a year are spent worldwide on energy subsidies. A key question for COP27 is how we transition from these subsidies

Chris Gentle, Senior Adviser New Business Ventures, World Energy Council

Senegalese gas is 25 times less carbon intensive than the gas from Qatar, so we have a strong argument to address the European market, but also to create an integrated domestic market

Mamadou Fall Kane, Energy Advisor to the President of The Republic of Senegal

In a scattered country with large population, it would be difficult to have a grid

Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development

Affordability is key. People who have less than \$1 a day cannot afford electricity

Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist NORCAP/FAO Uganda

RECOMMENDATION 7.

Clean cooking solutions are key to both climate and health goals

- The use of unclean cooking fuels such as solid biomass contributes to 490,000 premature deaths per year in sub-Saharan Africa.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, around 70% of households depend on wood fuel for energy, which produces almost twice as much carbon per million units of energy as gas and contributes to deforestation.
- Replacing polluting fuels with cleaner cooking fuels such as liquified petroleum gas (LPG) or electricity is key from both a health and a climate perspective.
- Cooking fuel transition must be a bottom-up process which takes into account local context and needs and is not imposed in a top-down manner.



My mother was using firewood for cooking. I bought her a nice cooker. She put it up as a souvenir. I had to build her a new house so she could start using it, as this was rooted in her culture

*Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist
NORCAP/FAO Uganda*

We have to take into consideration the cultural aspect. Sometimes it is not about affordability and access. It is about culture

Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development

If you just say that firewood cooking is dirty and primitive, this is not going to work. You have to say it is unhealthy and take your time. You are coming to change things people have been doing all their life

*Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist
NORCAP/FAO Uganda*

POTENTIAL: HIGHLIGHT AFRICA'S POTENTIAL IN A GLOBAL GREEN ECONOMY

RECOMMENDATION 8.

Raise awareness of Africa's assets and Africa's ability to be a key stakeholder of a global green economy - not just a victim of the climate crisis

- Assess and price adequately Africa's multidimensional wealth: marine and terrestrial biodiversity, renewable energy, and critical minerals for low-carbon technologies.
- Build and leverage Africa's collective bargaining power as a key sovereign owner of ecosystems and assets that are essential for a low-carbon future at global level.
- Consider climate change as a key development opportunity for Africa.



We should not sell cheap. These are the assets we need to negotiate with the rest of the world

Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation

The dash for African resources is already well in motion

Zeinab Badawi, Journalist & Broadcaster

I am very optimistic about the future for Africa because it has so much endowment

Jin-Yong Cai, Former CEO, International Finance Corporation

RECOMMENDATION 9.

Assess - and monetise - Africa's carbon-sequestration potential

- Africa is a net carbon sink: the continent is not only the lowest historic emitter per capita globally, but also home to key global carbon sinks such as the Congo Basin rainforest, which absorbs as much as the whole of Africa's carbon emissions together.
- African countries should be duly compensated for the preservation of these global assets, including with a price on carbon storage.



If we were able to put a price to carbon storage in Africa, we would be able to create 136 million jobs

Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

We must quantify and monetise the carbon we are sequestering

Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

RECOMMENDATION 10.**Avoid the 'resource curse': add local economic value and prioritise governance**

- Exporting raw commodities should become a trade model of the past. Upgrading the value chain by processing raw commodities locally should be the new economic model, to strengthen ownership, create local business and provide local employment.
- Processing Africa's minerals locally will not only create local value, but also allow to better control the environmental impact of manufacturing and production chains, for instance pollution of maritime transport routes, one of the biggest carbon emitters at global level.
- Transparency, accountability and governance are key at both national and global levels in the process of resource extraction and trade. Strong governance, transparency, and accountability mechanisms must be put in place preventively to avoid corruption, resource losses, ecological disasters, human rights violations and resource-driven conflicts.



There is no resource curse, just good or bad governance

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

The dark side of new energy production – health, child labour, resource conflict... needs to be addressed

Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

Tailored, robust policies built on good governance, more effective spending combined with accountability and transparency, will mobilise more funds externally and domestically and will make better use of these funds

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

We need to add value to our raw material and substance to our nature endowment, and not just be exporters of raw material and buy the products back

Mahmoud Mohieldin, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt

We have this incredible continent with phenomenal things under the grounds, and in the oceans as well. This is the opportunity to add value to the assets we own and turn them into real commercial wealth for the continent as well as wealth for its people

Nasi Rwigema, MIF Now Generation Network, Entrepreneur

No green colonialism

Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

Let us invest what is required to move from cobalt, nickel, graphite, and lithium export to battery production locally

Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation

Africa can become a green powerhouse to produce low carbon-impact products, including aluminium and solar panels, as opposed to China, still relying on coal to produce them

Jin-Yong Cai, Former CEO, International Finance Corporation

TOWARDS COP27: “YOU DON’T GET WHAT YOU NEED OR WHAT YOU DESERVE, YOU GET WHAT YOU NEGOTIATE”

RECOMMENDATION 11.

Define, present, and negotiate a Common African Position

- Make sure Africa is on par with other participants on the global scene - not just as a victim to be taken care of, but as a key stakeholder to partner with.
- Africa’s position cannot be reduced to one or two leading countries. It should portray the voice and the weight of the whole continent.
- Africa’s leadership and leaders need to define one narrative for negotiating at global level.



COP27 must be an African COP: African solutions developed for Africa by Africans. I urge you to seize the opportunity of COP27 to place the priorities of Africa at the centre of the global response to the climate crisis

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

We need to articulate Africa’s case. We need to have a really unified, loud, comprehensive voice. We have been unable to do that so far

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

We will not get that opportunity again. We need to get organised and then keep pushing

Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Assistant Secretary General, Director African Risk Capacity Group, United Nations

We are not victims. We are part of the solution, because we are already providing most of the offsets

Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation

If we don’t set the agenda, somebody will set it for us....and make money out of it. Time has come for Africa to set the agenda. Africans have not owned the climate agenda. It is still drafted in Europe’s boardrooms

Emilia Siwingwa, MIF Now Generation Network, Founder, African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives (AHADI)

RECOMMENDATION 12.**Re-build trust lost through previous summits**

- The Global North must follow through and implement former pledges already made, before even making new ones.
- Follow up on commitments, identify pilot projects for every commitment, including the allocation of resources.
- Monitor implementation and disbursements and be vocal when commitments are not fulfilled.



Turn these summit pledges into solutions, basically translating all commitments into pilot projects

Mahmoud Mohieldin, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt

We don't have time to still keep writing. This needs to be a COP for implementation

Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt

RECOMMENDATION 13.**Emphasise responsibilities**

- Africa cannot be expected to carbon finance the Global North.
- The world's largest emitters should be the ones to take the main responsibility for the climate crisis.
- The Global North must lead in terms of renewable energy transition and should provide the bulk of climate financing, including for loss and damage and adaptation mechanisms.



Articulate climate justice: benefits, burden, responsibilities

Emilia Siwingwa, MIF Now Generation Network, Founder, African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives (AHADI)

People need to understand climate change is man-made, not a God-driven malediction

Mo Ibrahim, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Industrialised countries do not have the moral authority on climate change, as they are 100% responsible for it

Mamadou Fall Kane, Energy Advisor to the President of The Republic of Senegal

If we can take people to The Hague for trampling human rights, why can't we hold developed countries to account for climate change

Emilia Siwingwa, MIF Now Generation Network, Founder, African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives (AHADI)

RECOMMENDATION 14. **Adopt a wide range of integrated and innovative financial solutions**

- Emphasise the relationship between climate and debt and link debt forgiveness to adaptation and mitigation purposes.
- Increase sovereignty over the climate agenda by mobilising domestic resources, leveraging Africa's pension and sovereign funds and strengthening tax systems.
- Streamline financing processes and eligibility criteria.
- Do not rely solely on public finance: include public-private partnerships (PPP), blended finance, guarantees, insurance.



Sub-Saharan Africa represents 14% of world's population, but only 3% of global climate finance flows into the region. Only 2% of global renewable investments in the past decade have gone to Africa, despite its abundant and untapped renewable resources

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

We need to ensure that Africa benefits from the trillions of private finance being mobilised to accelerate the energy transition. This will require that the Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Institutions be more creative and innovative in creating financial instruments and structures that take into account the needs and circumstances of all African economies

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations

Financial innovation is key. Those pledges will only come true through financial innovation

Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation

RECOMMENDATION 15.

Give a human face to the climate debate

- Humanise: the climate debate cannot be just about 'saving the planet', but rather about its impact on people's daily lives and livelihoods.
- Contextualise: adapt the narrative, simplify the language, develop climate and energy literacy.
- Localise: define policies that have local context and nuances. Listen and include local and indigenous knowledge and solutions.



We need energy literacy. The world is less than 10% literate in energy. Where the energy comes from, what are the implications of using that kind of energy
Chris Gentle, Senior Adviser New Business Ventures, World Energy Council

Climate change is a very elitist conversation. Only four out of ten Africans know what climate change is, and only 28% have an understanding of the need for and importance of climate action
Natasha Kimani, MIF Now Generation Network, Research and Media Programme Lead, Africa No Filter

When you say climate change to an unemployed 22 years old who is struggling to make ends meet, he says, listen, I am dying anyway, I do not have food on my table. So, you are speaking this English that I do not understand
Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

People experience climate change on a daily basis. But they do not understand it. They understand drought. They do not understand climate
Audience member, MIF Now Generation Network

It is important to highlight the small and impactful ways Africans are making change on their continent, to shift the narrative. This is not just about doom and gloom
Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist NORCAP/FAO Uganda

We must embed this in our education systems as young people are able to understand the importance of protecting their environment and their communities, the importance of being more proactive rather than just reactive
Anne Nyambane, MIF Now Generation Network, Sustainable Energy Specialist NORCAP/FAO Uganda

We are not just talking about melting ice caps, penguins, and polar bears, but about real people. People like my aunts and my cousins who are unable to pursue their livelihoods, to send children to school, to access healthcare, because of the succession of droughts and floods
Emilia Siwingwa, MIF Now Generation Network, Founder, African Hub for Accountability and Development Initiatives (AHADI)

COP27 will put the link between climate and human needs at the centre of the discussion
Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt

Session 1: Africa's vicious cycle: low resilience worsens, and is worsened by, climate change

Impacts of climate change

The group spoke about the devastating impacts of climate change in Africa with the continent experiencing more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts and flooding; highlighting that although the continent is least responsible for climate change it is paying the highest price. They agreed that it is unfair for African countries to continue to suffer the consequences of high carbon emissions caused by countries in the global North.

COP

COP 27 will be hosted in Egypt this November. The NGF participants recognised the significance of an Africa COP and the opportunity this presents to articulate the continent's specific vulnerabilities and climate solutions. However, in order to strengthen what this platform represents, the group called for commitments made at COP 26 to be met first.

Unity

NGF participants stressed that Africa needs to speak with one voice at COP 27 whilst recognising the challenges faced by individual countries. The group also highlighted that presenting a unified voice should include the perspectives of young people and indigenous communities, and that African governments have a key role to play in this.

Climate financing

The group asserted that the right to development goes hand in hand with climate financing, as such, African countries should be allowed to industrialise with the financial support of developed countries. They also highlighted the importance of holding historical polluters to account through compensation for losses and damages.

Climate research

A major challenge presented by the group in relation to climate action is that of data paucity. NGF participants highlighted a lack of data on climate change in Africa and the need for more funding into climate research on the continent. They called for more investment in climate research and regional collaboration to share and learn from existing data.



Mechanisms should be put in place for the implementation of all of the past promises from COP. Before we even start talking about new ones, I think the old ones need to be respected and implemented.

Emmanuel Adegboye, Nigeria

How do we really hold historical and major polluters accountable for the financing? Because really, the crux of the matter is financing infrastructure.

Barkha Mossae, Mauritius

I think African countries will need to strengthen their regulatory and policy environments to take advantage of carbon markets and ensure people understand how offset trading can benefit their communities.

Oussama Ghajjou, Morocco

The Now Generation Forum (NGF) is an annual closed convening of young African leaders and professionals from across the continent which takes place ahead of the main Ibrahim Governance Forum. The NGF seeks to gather the perspectives and expertise of young Africans on the topics discussed at the Ibrahim Governance Forum, with some representatives joining the high-level discussions. This year, participants unpacked Africa's position in the global debate around climate change.

Session 2: The elephant in the room: what's an acceptable trade-off between development and climate goals?

Balancing development and climate protection

The group agreed that there needs to be balance between climate protection and development. They highlighted that Africa has the right to develop and should be allowed to do so, however, the NGF participants proposed that the continent needs to redefine its development objectives. They also argued that the 'one size fits all' approach to phasing out fossil fuels led by developed countries would constrain the continent, noting that Africa should have different timeframes for reaching net zero.

Energy access

Over 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity. The NGF participants asserted that increasing energy access should be a top priority for Africa to address the growing demand for power on the continent. They called on African governments to create clear electrification targets and to use regional networks for energy provision.

Energy transition

The NGF participants highlighted that renewable energy sources such as solar and hydro are not sufficient to fill Africa's energy gaps. The group discussed the abundance of the continent's natural gas reserves, and how this less polluting fuel should be used by African countries to transition to cleaner energy. The group noted that more financial support for renewable energy is a moral and environmental imperative for richer countries. As such, they called for any clean energy commitment made by an African country at COP27 to be matched with an equivalent commitment to funding.

Governance

According to the NGF participants, many African countries have good policies when it comes to climate and energy, however, there is a gap between policy creation and implementation. The group highlighted that good governance is essential to this and that African citizens should hold their governments accountable for climate inaction.



Having African countries sign up to the same timeline or deadline for achieving net zero is totally flawed. We haven't even started playing this game and we are told to curtail emissions by 2050. I don't think anything sooner than 2100 would be fair for African countries at all.

Emmanuel Taiwo, Nigeria

As Africa, we need to create policies that allow us to benefit in climate financing. We need to highly tax companies or countries that need our resources, specifically gas.

Gertrude Kitongo, Kenya

Session 3: Africa's assets are key for a global sustainable future

Leveraging Africa's resources

30% of the world's mineral reserves are in Africa. The NGF participants discussed the vast natural resources the continent has including both green and blue wealth and the opportunity this presents for Africa to be a key stakeholder of a global green economy, if these resources are managed efficiently. They argued that Africa needs to leverage these assets more and set investment priorities that align with the continent's goals.

Governance

The group agreed that good governance at continental, country and local level is essential to ensuring that Africa's resources benefit African citizens. They called for African governments to be more transparent with regards to how natural resources are managed including how mining contracts are issued to foreign companies. The NGF participants also highlighted the importance of involving local communities in the management of local resources and the need for education and investment in these communities to ensure that these assets are protected.

Value addition

Exporting raw materials without enhancing local refining processes on the continent was seen as detrimental to African economies. The NGF participants called for more value addition processes to be done on the continent which would in turn create more jobs, enhance ownership of natural resources and reduce environmental degradation.

Role of young Africans

By 2050, one quarter of the world's population will be Africa's youth. The NGF participants agreed that young Africans and rural communities have an important role to play in the management of continent's natural resources. As such, they must be included in decision-making processes.



As young Africans, we are 60% of the population. We are the future of the continent. The impact of climate change is going to have impact on us more than anything else. So, I think we need to be more proactive in our demands for holding our leaders accountable.

Richard Kweitsu, Ghana

It's about African countries coming up with very clear priorities, and then the global North aligns their investment with what our priorities are, instead of it being the other way round.

Anne Nyambane, Kenya

We mustn't allow people to come and exploit our assets and then leave us to deal with the consequences of the extraction.

Divane Nzima, South Africa

Our voices, our vision, our actions matter and African leaders' voices only resonate when they're backed by citizens voices.


Emilia Siwingwa, Tanzania


Note: All quotes are extracted from the transcripts of the 2022 Ibrahim Governance Forum debates video material. These have been adapted from the audio version for editorial purposes.





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