

ECA's *Building Forward for an African Green Recovery* outlines bolder intra-African trade and climate-smart measures for continent's recovery

The Economic Commission for Africa on Monday launched the *Building Forward for an African Green Recovery* report which highlights the continent's bold post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategy.

The report seeks to bolster the continent's valiant quest for the realization of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), attainment of the Paris Agreement's climate change targets and achievement of the prosperity objectives articulated in Africa's Agenda 2063.

The *Building Forward for an African Green Recovery* will contribute significantly towards achieving and enhancing sustainable trade within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) over the next decade.

The report shows the African region faces its first recession in 25 years with output losses due to COVID-19 estimated to be 99 billion USD. This is compounded by climate impacts on economic output projected to cause annual losses of between 3-5% of GDP by 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario. In some cases, this will be as much as -15% of GDP. With credible data available on the impact of climate change, the ECA *Building Forward for an African Green Recovery* makes a case for Africa to make informed assessments and take knowledgeable decisions. The report calls for the uptake of



nature-based solutions at national, regional and continental levels to inspire policies that preserve the global commons.

ECA has been at the forefront of supporting transitions in African countries towards sustainable development pathways illustrated on Green or Blue Economy pillars, which endorse climate-smart agricultural approaches, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism and adoption of cleaner energy sources including solar, tidal, wind and geothermal sources.

"For us to build back better we need a lot of energy. The conversation in Africa is about substituting expensive bad fossil fuels with something that is cleaner and cheaper," said UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of

the ECA, Vera Songwe. "We have to replace fuel-based energies with green and sustainable ones."

This report seeks to galvanise support for Africa's Green and Blue Economy strategies and mobilise resources to bolster the continent's climate adaptation and mitigation measures. It summarizes the continental outlook of how collaborative partnerships bringing together development partners, multilateral agencies, private sector, international and non-governmental organisations can boost Africa's green and blue livelihoods recovery programme.

Ms. Songwe noted that with the impact of COVID-19 and its associated economic contractions coupled with the debilitating impact of

Africa can be resilient and green

Africa can be green and resilient by turning immense political will into action in mobilising and using financial resources for sustainable development, leaders at the seventh Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development have urged.

Africa is a rich continent with a poor disposition in tracking and deploying economic resources towards its development. This was the feeling underlining a high-level panel discussion on transformative actions and investments needed for Africa to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis at the Regional Forum which kicked off in Brazzaville, Congo, this week.

To develop transformative actions and investments needed to build forward better from the pandemic and move towards a resilient and green Africa that will achieve Agendas 2030 and 2063, the continent needs to cap illegal logging and deforestation which are fuelling illicit financial flows, urged Albert Muchangana, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining at the African Union. He noted that illicit financial flows were undermining the domestic resource base, adding it was imperative for Africa to mobilise public and private capital for low carbon growth.

According to the United Nations Conference in Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa can half its annual financing gap of \$200 billion it faces to achieve the SDGs by stemming illicit capital flight. Africa loses an estimated \$88.6 billion annually in illicit financial flows which include money and assets sourced illegally and moved across borders.

In addition, Africa needs to restructure its external debt to unlock resources that can go into social protection among other pro-



grammes to improve livelihoods of citizens, panellists agreed.

"Of necessity we have to create conditions for the green economy and that calls for research and innovation. It calls for sustainable value addition to our resources," opined Paul Mavima, Zimbabwe's Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Minister, who warned that for too long Africa has relied on extractive industries to drive economic growth yet sustainable industrialisation was equally profitable and laden with prospects of green jobs and innovation.

"We need to garner enough will within our countries to fight corruption and fight the illicit flow of resources from Africa," Mr. Mavima urged. "If we preserve those resources and come up with policies and programmes directly focusing on our priorities, then Africa can generate the resources we need to further objectives of achieving Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063."

The recently launched African Continental Free Trade Area, if implemented, offers Africa a fresh opportunity to grow green and build sustainable trade within Africa, the panellists agreed.

Congo's Minister of Tourism and Environment and incoming Chair of the Bureau of the seventh session of the regional Forum, Arlette Soudan Nonault, said the countries in the Congo Basin Climate Commission have demonstrated political will in

action towards a resilient Africa that can achieve the 17 SDGs. They have mobilised resources through strategic partnerships to protect the basin which is Africa's biggest carbon lung.

"We cannot wait for disasters so that the international community mobilises funding for us," Ms. Nonault said. "Should we burn the Congo basin for the international community to respond? We cannot do implementation unless we have resources. Hence political resources must be translated into action. We have the Green Fund and the Blue Fund that we should be able to tap into."

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Colleen Vixen Kelapile, said Africa must generate innovative and transformative action and use Agenda 2063 as a roadmap to build back better but added leadership was key to a post-COVID green and resilient Africa.

Concurring that COVID-19 had increased inequalities across Africa with massive failures of health systems to respond to the pandemic, Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes at the United Nations Population Fund, said inter sectoral coordination at the highest level of government was critical for the continent to build better and greener by monitoring all health related goals. ■

Africa can build forward better in COVID-19 aftermath



Buoyed by growing economic opportunities and investment interest, the African continent is poised for transformation. At the same time Africa has to overcome political, economic, social and infrastructural challenges that remain a barrier to its development.

As Africa seeks to accelerate its economic transformation and human development, the continent has not escaped the impacts of fresh challenges such as climate change which has compromised food and nutritional security. Climate change is projected by the African Climate Policy Centre of the ECA to cost African countries between 2 and 5 per cent of GDP by 2030. Furthermore, the current COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse a number of development gains in Africa as it has impacted on food security, trade, health, education and peace.

In Africa, COVID-19 has severely tested the social, economic, political and environmental resilience, exacting a massive toll on the poor and most vulnerable and jeopardizing decades of hard-won development gains. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the COVID-19 pandemic has widened the continent's financing gap to \$345 billion and derailed progress

towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is in the backdrop of a changed and changing economic and political environment that the Seventh Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development ([ARFSD](#)) is being held.

Convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other partners, the ARFSD Forum is a premier platform for many development actors to dialogue, share perspectives and recommit action on moving the need on development in Africa. More importantly the Forum seeks to fast track the implementation of the 2030 Agenda - a holistic plan embodied in 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the [Agenda 2063](#), a development blue print for Africa's transformation within 50 years.

The Forum from 1-4 March 2020 is this year a hybrid event held virtually and in person in Brazzaville, Congo. It is a critical platform for building consensus on development pathways for Africa in line with the agendas of the two development blue prints adopted by African governments.

With the theme, *"Building forward better: Towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063"*, the Forum will be attended by all 54 member States of ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, UN organisations, civil society, business and industry organizations, academic and research institutions.

The regional forum is an annual ECA event aimed at advancing an integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It serves as a multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up and review of progress and challenges in the implementation of the two Agendas, while strengthening learning and advocating effective policy measures and actions.

ARFSD7 will undertake a regional follow-up and review of progress made, facilitate peer learning, and advance transformative solutions and actions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, nine Sustainable Development Goals on no poverty; Zero hunger; Good health and well-being; Decent work and economic growth; Reduced inequalities; Responsible consumption and production; Climate action; Peace, justice and strong institutions will be considered at the 2021 high-level political forum. In addition, the Forum will consider corresponding goals of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

Taking stock of Africa's progress on SDGs, a total of 53 Acceleration Actions on SDGs in Africa have been published as of December 2020 with a majority of them addressing multiple SDGs leveraging

Les gouvernements africains, priés de prêter attention aux effets des conflits, du changement climatique et de la COVID-19 sur les systèmes alimentaires



L'Afrique, en tant que continent producteur de denrées alimentaires, peut produire suffisamment pour se nourrir et nourrir le reste du monde. Mais au lieu d'être le panier alimentaire du monde, l'Afrique fait face à une faim et une malnutrition croissantes en raison de facteurs tels que les effets du changement climatique, des conflits et de la COVID-19, décrits comme le « Triple C ».

Ces défis ne menacent pas seulement les futures perspectives de production alimentaire, ils font également reculer les acquis dans les systèmes alimentaires africains.

Lors d'une table ronde tenue virtuellement aujourd'hui, 1^{er} mars 2021, en tant qu'événement parallèle du Forum régional africain pour le développement durable (FRADD), les participants ont donné des images fortes des menaces que posent le « Triple C » et ont formulé des recommandations sur l'élaboration de réponses appropriées afin de faire face aux problèmes.

Selon Dina Saleh, du Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA), les interactions entre

les conflits, le changement climatique et la COVID-19 ont des effets négatifs sur le système alimentaire ainsi que sur les ODD et l'Agenda 2063. Elle exhorte donc les pays africains à construire des systèmes alimentaires résilients pour contrer les défis.

Dans sa contribution, M. Chimimba David Phiri, Coordonnateur sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique de l'Est et Représentant de la FAO auprès de l'Union africaine, note qu'il n'y a pas de meilleure occasion de discuter du système alimentaire de l'Afrique que maintenant.

Il déclare que les systèmes alimentaires en Afrique sont négativement affectés par le climat, la COVID-19 et les conflits, et que les pauvres sont grandement affectés.

Citant les incidents de sécheresses et d'inondations, il dit que ce qui se produisait il y a 10 ans dans le passé se produit maintenant tous les deux ans.

Il affirme que le changement climatique est l'une des causes des conflits liés aux ressources, conduisant à des conflits sur l'eau et po-

sant de réels défis aux systèmes alimentaires en causant le déplacement des familles et des exploitants agricoles.

« L'apparition de la COVID-19 a aggravé la vulnérabilité des systèmes alimentaires, en particulier des personnes vivant dans les zones rurales », dit-il.

Il ajoute qu'un système alimentaire durable est au cœur des ODD des Nations Unies et que les systèmes alimentaires mondiaux doivent construire des systèmes résilients en réponse aux défis que posent les conflits, le changement climatique et la COVID-19, ainsi que créer des relations communautaires, améliorer la nutrition et le revenu des femmes.

M. Phiri appelle les pays africains à se rassembler et à construire des systèmes pour soutenir la mise en œuvre de mécanismes visant à renforcer les systèmes alimentaires.

Lors de sa présentation, Kafkas Capralzi, de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) déclare qu'un système alimentaire durable qui fournit de la nourriture, est non seulement rentable et vaste mais a aussi une incidence positive et neutre sur l'environnement.

Capralzi soulignant que le changement climatique peut affecter les producteurs alimentaires, affirme que si les producteurs alimentaires à grande échelle sont capables d'adapter leurs pratiques de production et ont une alimentation suffisante, les petits producteurs ne le peuvent pas.

Il met en garde que si les grands groupes n'agissent pas, les plus vulnérables mourront de faim et trouveront la mort.

Gas can ease Africa's energy challenges

Africa has the potential to generate 400 gigawatts (GW) of gas-generated power with Tanzania, Mozambique and Nigeria accounting for 60 percent of the capacity, indicating limited penetration of gas in non-gas producing African countries.

The share of gas in electricity generation was 14 percent in 1990, growing to 21 percent by 2000. By 2010, nearly a third of electricity generation was sourced from gas, which increased to nearly 40 percent by 2018.

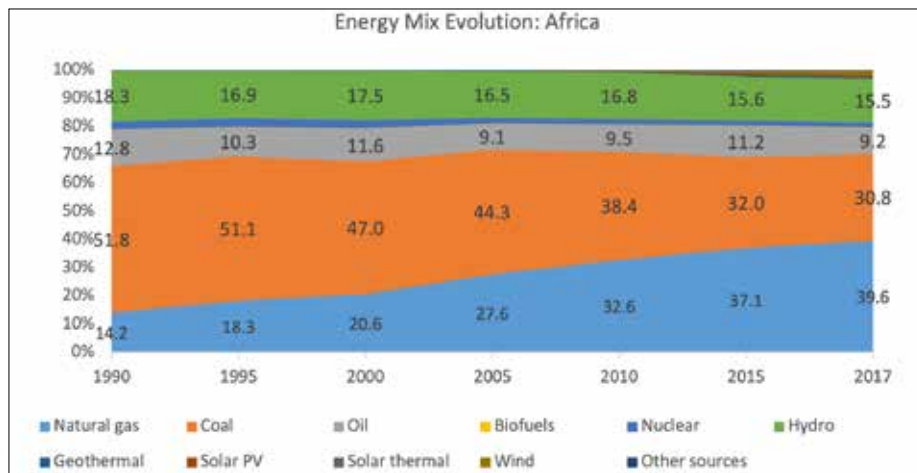
Presenting a paper on Energy Transition, Regulation, Finance and the Private Sector at a side event of the ongoing seventh Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Yohannes G. Hailu, an Economic Affairs Officer with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), said Africa should tap into gas which has become more attractive, and could replace more expensive fuel sources, and in the process reduce the cost of energy on the continent.

He said the international electricity sector was revolving towards a low carbon economy resulting in a transition and new pathways for the energy system.

Mr. Hailu said the traditional electricity business models and value chains that were dependent on a vertically integrated utility power system were phasing out.

"Rapidly changing technologies and declining production costs of renewable energies have increased the complexity of managing the supply side or decentralization," he said.

"There is therefore need to put capacity as we transition... access versus sustainable change. The transition itself must be just; creating new relationships of power. If the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be. We need to get this right."



While energy transition through natural gas has occurred, renewable uptake is still very minimal, despite wind and solar technology having decreased by more than 65% and 80% respectively between 2010 and 2017.

Mr. Hailu mentioned regulation, investment and finance, as the main drivers of the low uptake. Most of wind and solar power development - above 60% - is being undertaken by the private sector.

While the power generation segment is increasingly opening up, private sector role in transmission, distribution and specially off-

grid systems development is still limited.

"Regulation is not catching up with developments in the sector – such as the need for energy access and transition. Economic regulation is largely problematic to investment in sustainable energy even in the absence of any incentive schemes," said Mr. Hailu.

The market structure was still rigid and not nimble and competition curtailed, and complex relationships, such as private-to-private PPAs, were often not permitted. As a result, private sector participation models were limited.

Continued on page 10

Africa can build forward... (cont. from page 2)

interlinkages, while 15% of initiatives focus on addressing one SDG. Of the 53 registered actions, SDG 1 has mobilized the largest number, followed by SDGs 4, 13, 17, 2 and 5. Western Africa registered the highest number of acceleration action initiatives based on geographical location at 29% followed by Eastern Africa at 25%, Southern Africa at 21%, 19% from Northern Africa and Central Africa at 6%.

The Forum will enhance the capacity of the 2021 voluntary national review countries to undertake their reviews and present the review reports at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

It will also raise the profile of voluntary local reviews and strengthen the capacity of cities and local governments to implement and report on progress achieved in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

At the same time the Forum will also increase the knowledge and capacity of member States, major groups and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and strengthen the commitment of relevant stakeholders to accelerate the pace of implementation and ensure effective follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ■

African governments urged to pay attention to impacts of conflict, climate change and COVID-19 on food systems

Africa, as a food producing continent can produce enough to feed itself and the rest of the world. But instead of being the food basket of the world, the continent is facing increasing hunger and malnutrition due to factors such as the impact of climate change, conflict and COVID-19, described as the 'Triple Cs'.

These challenges are not only threatening future food production prospects but they are also rolling back achievements in Africa's food systems.

At a panel discussion held virtually as a side event of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) on Monday, the discussants gave vivid images of the threats posed by the 'Triple Cs' and made recommendations on fashioning out appropriate responses to dealing with the issues.

According to Dina Saleh of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the interactions between conflict, climate change and COVID-19 negatively impact the food system as well SDGs and Agenda 2063. She urged African countries to build resilient food systems to address the challenges.

In his contribution, Dr. Chimimba David Phiri, the FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the African Union, noted that there was no better opportunity to discuss Africa's food systems than now.

Citing incidents of droughts and floods, Mr. Phiri said what used to occur every 10 years in the past, now occurred every two years.

He said climate change was one of the causes of resource-based conflicts, for example over water, and posed real challenges to food systems by displacing families and farmers.



"The emergence of COVID-19 has worsened the vulnerability of food systems, especially of people living in rural areas," said Mr. Phiri.

For his part, Kafkas Capralzi of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said a sustainable food system that provides food, is profitable, broad-based and has a positive and neutral impact on the environment.

He said while large scale food producers were able to adapt production practices due to climate change and have food sufficiency, small scale producers could not.

"In the next 10 years if we don't take action, there will be chronic hunger," he said. "Risk is a hazard, and when it meets humans, governments have an obligation to act."

Magdalena Moshi, Deputy Director, African Union Liaison Office in Addis Ababa at UN World Food Programme, said the 'Triple Cs' were key drivers behind worsening food security.

She said the global food system should be inclusive and food production systems must be expanded to reach more vulnerable people.

Amjad Abbashar, Chief, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Re-

duction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa, said Africa experiences at least two disasters per week.

He said the cascading nature of risk can affect other areas of life in multiple ways with ripple effects, impacting development gains in the process.

In his presentation, Gerald Masila, the Executive Director at the Eastern Africa Grain Council, said failure to increase local food production has seen the continent's food import bill rising. This has discouraged local farmers, affected local supply chains and also deterred investors from investing in agriculture, and in the process weakening the ability of local producers to compete.

He recommended the conversion of small scale farms into large scale farms by bringing them together so they can focus on value chains and lower production costs. He called for improved value chains on the continent and accountability in the way cooperatives are run.

The four-day meeting is being held under the theme "Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063". ■

La numérisation est une solution pour accélérer le développement de l'Afrique

Les panelistes du webinaire intitulé, « Comment la transformation numérique peut contribuer à construire un avenir meilleur post covid-19 », ont insisté sur la nécessité pour les États africains, de repenser leurs politiques de numérisation afin de les adapter à leurs plans de développement.

L'épidémie de coronavirus a accéléré la tendance à la numérisation en Afrique, dont il va falloir dépoussiérer et mettre en pratique toutes les politiques publiques de numérisation afin de faire face aux crises structurelles, a déclaré M. Thierry H. Amoussougbo, Responsable de l'apprentissage en ligne et de la gestion des connaissances, à IDEP (CEA)

Il a, à ce propos, annoncé le lancement d'un programme de formation IDEP-UNCDF sur la transformation numérique intitulé : « Des parcours de transformation numérique inclusifs pour atteindre les ODD et l'Agenda 2063 »

Les cours seront gratuits et vont durer dix (10) semaines. Le programme aura lieu du 5 Avril au 18 Juillet prochains. Les inscriptions auront lieu du 3 au 24 Mars 2021

M^{me} Karima Bounemra, Directrice de l'Institut africain de développement économique et de planification a souligné que la Covid-19 doit rappeler que le développement ne peut être linéaire, d'où, selon elle, l'impérieuse nécessité de rendre plus flexibles les plans de développement. Ceci, afin qu'ils soient capables de répondre à tous les défis (calamités naturelles, sanitaires, etc.)

Rappelant que beaucoup de solutions innovantes ont été créés pour faire face à la Covid-19, la directrice de l'IDEP soutient que « la numérisation est une solution pour



accélérer le développement de l'Afrique ».

Le webinaire animé par M^{me} Sabine Mensah, Coordinatrice régionale pour l'Afrique de l'ouest et centrale, Inclusion financière numérique, au (FENU), s'est tenu dans le cadre la septième session du Forum régional africain pour le développement durable (FRAAD)

Le 7^{ème} FRAAD a pour thème « *Mieux construire l'avenir : Vers une Afrique résiliente et verte pour la réalisation du Programme 2030 et de l'Agenda 2063* ».

Le webinaire a aussi donné l'occasion à M. Mamadou Biteye, Vice-président, Croissance inclusive, Impact social chez Visa de décliner les réalisations et projets de son organisation.

Ainsi, il a expliqué comment la possession d'une carte bancaire a permis aux MPME de mieux faire face à la crise et les initiatives VISA

en place par VISA pour améliorer la résilience des MPME.

À sa suite, M. François Coupienne, Manager Global, Économies numériques globales et inclusives, FENU a listé des exemples d'innovation numérique initiés par cet organisme dans de nombreux pays à travers le monde. Il a également raconté comment le FENU a tiré parti de la pandémie pour accélérer le développement d'initiatives dans le monde entier dans les domaines du renforcement de capacités, de l'agriculture, ou des MPME.

Les participants ont également suivi avec intérêt les initiatives de transformations numériques prises par le Ministère de l'économie numérique, du développement postal et de la transformation numérique du Burkina Faso pour faire face aux effets de la pandémie. ■

Les gouvernements africains... (suite de la page 4)

Il indique que si les menaces de catastrophe sont mondiales, les réactions doivent être locales.

« Au cours des 10 prochaines années, si nous n'agissons pas, une faim chronique se manifestera », dit-il.

Selon Capralzi, c'est un cercle vicieux qui se nourrit mutuellement des causes des conflits armés. Ces conflits ne sont pas seulement dans la société, ils sont aussi dans les familles ainsi que les conflits basés sur le genre.

Il appelle à des solutions durables pour prendre soin des plus vulnérables de la société et au besoin de solidarité pour relever les défis.

« Le risque est un danger, et lorsqu'il rencontre des humains, les gouvernements se doivent d'agir », ajoute-t-il.

Magdalena Moshi, Directrice adjointe du Bureau de liaison de l'Union africaine, à Addis-Abeba, au Programme alimentaire mondial, déclare que le « Triple C » est un facteur clé de la détérioration de la sécurité alimentaire et que pour les personnes déjà vulnérables, la situation est plus catastrophique.

La situation, dit-elle, alimente également la migration vers l'extérieur et affecte la production alimentaire.

Elle demande instamment que le système alimentaire mondial soit inclusif et que les systèmes de production alimentaire soient élargis pour atteindre les personnes les plus vulnérables.

Amjad Abbashar, Chef du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique, du Bureau des Nations Unies pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe (UNDRR) indique qu'actuellement, l'Afrique subit deux catastrophes par semaine. Notant que les catastrophes telles que les sécheresses, les cyclones, etc. ont des effets négatifs au niveau local, affectent la sécurité alimentaire et peuvent raviver les conflits dans les communautés locales.



Il souligne que la nature du risque peut affecter les autres domaines de la vie de multiples manières avec des répercussions et des gains de développement.

Il exhorte à travailler avec les gouvernements pour s'assurer que les gouvernements nationaux disposent des mécanismes nécessaires pour faire face aux catastrophes et aux systèmes de santé connexes.

Dans sa présentation, Gerald Masila, Directeur exécutif du Conseil des céréales de l'Afrique de l'Est, fait part de ses préoccupations concernant les effets du « Triple C » sur la production et la consommation locales de denrées alimentaires.

Il fait valoir que faillir à augmenter la production alimentaire locale, a causé une augmentation de la substitution aux aliments, ce qui a entraîné une augmentation des factures d'importation.

Il ajoute que la hausse des importations de denrées alimentaires décourage les exploitants agricoles locaux de produire et que, par conséquent, l'activité agricole et la chaîne d'approvisionnement locale sont affectées, ce qui décourage les

investisseurs d'investir dans l'agriculture. Cela affaiblit également la capacité concurrentielle des producteurs locaux, déclare-t-il.

Telles sont ses recommandations pour résoudre les problèmes ; Il recommande la conversion des petits exploitants agricoles en exploitants agricoles à grande échelle en les rassemblant afin qu'ils puissent se concentrer sur la chaîne de valeur. En les rassemblant, il forme un plus grand groupe et le coût de production baisse, ajoute-t-il.

Deuxièmement, il appelle à une amélioration de l'organisation de la chaîne de valeur africaine et troisièmement, il appelle à la responsabilité. Il déclare que les dirigeants des coopératives qui détournent des fonds doivent être tenus pour responsables et punis, au lieu de leur permettre de jouir de leur liberté.

« Ce n'est que lorsque ces dirigeants seront punis que les coopératives commenceront à fonctionner », déclare-t-il.

La réunion de quatre jours a pour thème. « Mieux construire l'avenir : Vers une Afrique résiliente et verte pour la réalisation du Programme 2030 et de l'Agenda 2063 ». ■

Septième Forum régional africain pour le développement durable : Arlette Soudan Nonault prend les rênes du Forum

Détenue depuis février 2020 par le Professeur Paul Mavima, Ministre du travail et de la fonction publique du Zimbabwe, la présidence du Forum régional africain pour le développement durable (FRADD) a été confiée, ce lundi, à M^{me} Arlette Soudan Nonault, Ministre congolaise du tourisme et de l'environnement, lors de l'ouverture à Brazzaville, de la septième édition dudit Forum.

M^{me} Soudan Nonault dont le pays accueille la septième édition du FRADD sous le thème « Mieux construire l'avenir : Vers une Afrique résiliente et verte pour assurer la réalisation du Programme 2030 et de l'Agenda 2063 », présidera aux destinées de ce forum jusqu'à la huitième session qui se tiendra en 2022 dans un pays de l'Afrique de l'Est qui sera déterminé avant la fin de la rencontre de Brazzaville.

Comme de coutume au Forum régional africain pour le développement durable, toutes les sous-régions sont représentées au sein du bureau présidé par M^{me} Arlette Soudan Nonault.

Le poste de 1^{er} Vice-président est assuré par un représentant du Kenya (Afrique de l'Est), celui de deuxième Vice-président est confié au Niger (Afrique de l'Ouest), et l'Algérie, pays d'Afrique du Nord occupe le poste de troisième Vice-président. Le secrétariat du bureau est assuré par le Zimbabwe.



Avant Brazzaville, le bureau élu lors de la sixième session, à Victoria Falls, au Zimbabwe (Afrique Australe), dirigé par le Professeur Paul Maviwa, comprenait à la première Vice-présidence, le représentant de la République démocratique du Congo (Afrique Centrale), à la deuxième Vice-présidence l'Ouganda (Afrique de l'Est) et le Libéria (Afrique de l'Ouest) occupait la troisième Vice-présidence. Le Maroc (Afrique du Nord) qui avait accueilli la cinquième édition de la rencontre, a assuré le secrétariat.

Avant la septième session, seize (16) pays n'avaient jamais ni présidé le bureau, ni compté de représentants au sein de celui-ci. Il s'agit : de la Lybie pour l'Afrique du Nord, des Comores, de Djibouti, de Madagascar et du Rwanda pour l'Afrique de l'Est, du Mozambique et de l'Eswatini pour l'Afrique australe.

En Afrique centrale et de l'Ouest, huit pays n'avaient jusque-là jamais été représentés au bureau. Il s'agit notamment de la République Centrafricaine, la Guinée Équatoriale,

São Tomé et Príncipe, Le Cap Vert, la Guinée Bissau, le Mali, la Sierra Léone, et le Niger (qui vient d'être désigné au poste de deuxième Vice-président).

La rencontre annuelle pilotée par la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA), la Commission de l'Union africaine (CUA) et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), le FRADD a pour objectif de promouvoir la mise en œuvre intégrée du Programme 2030 et de l'Agenda 2063 qui se renforcent mutuellement.

Le FRADD dont la septième édition prend fin jeudi, contribue considérablement à renforcer l'engagement multipartite pris par les parties prenantes et les synergies qui existent entre elles, ainsi qu'à les faire travailler de concert à la mise en œuvre et à la réalisation des Objectifs de développement définis dans les deux programmes. ■

ECA's Building Forward for an African Green Recovery... (cont. from page 1)

the climate crisis, Africa's focus on recovery was even more essential. According to the ECA Chief, there is an urgent need to roll-out financial aid packages, investments in sustainable infrastructure and structure fiscal stimuli to cushion the expected transition into the green and blue economy.

In the immediate this involves a new issuance of SDRs to boost liquidity for African countries, and extension of the DSSI. The ECA has also been advocating for SDRs to be made available for on-lending to provide cheaper forms of finance for investment in sustainable priorities such as clean energy. Opportunities for green and blue bonds using appropriate credit enhancements should also be considered alongside the opportunity for debt restructuring using debt for climate or debt for nature swaps.

The "circular economy" concept has been defined as one which is restorative, as it heavily relies on renewable energies and eradicates waste and toxic chemicals. In the same vein the green economy is described as one that improves well-being, promotes social equity, reduces ecological risks and is capable of transforming the global

economy towards a low-carbon development uptake.

In his remarks, Albert Muchanga, African Union's Commissioner for Trade and Industry, welcomed the launch of the South African case studies. "The launch of the report and case studies has come at an opportune moment as the AU will work together with the ECA and other partners in fulfilling the objective of an African post-pandemic Green recovery," Mr. Muchanga said.

"Africa has immense renewable energy potential to boost its economic growth through adoption of cleaner energy pathways which are a boost to adaptation and climate mitigation."

Commenting on the need for urgent global action to support Africa's green recovery initiatives, Sir Nicholas Kay, the UK regional Ambassador for Africa of the Climate Conference (COP26), said "Global political will is building up as has been seen with the return of the US to the Paris Agreement, commitment of China to net-zero emissions and raised ambitions by the UK, among other developed nations, to pursue a Green Industrial Revolution. All these are a boost for Africa to adopt greener economic

pathways for attainment of sustainable development goals."

"Green energy is the future," he added.

Speaking during the launch, Julia Bird from the Oxford University, who collaborated with the ECA in producing the report said; "Africa is endowed with some of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots, and one of the most important natural carbon sinks, such as the peatlands of the Congo basin which can lock in up to 30 billion tons of carbon."

"This sequestered carbon is equivalent to 3 years-worth of the whole world's emissions. Carbon off-sets provide an opportunity for Africa to tap into the value of its natural assets by factoring in carbon sequestration values. Uptake of reliable green energy will support Africa's economic transformation and clean transition."

Ms. Songwe underscored the need for a "paradigm shift from resource-heavy and inefficient models of production and consumption that incentivise overexploitation, to models that are centred on sustainable use of resources and bring value throughout the production and consumption cycle as part of a circular green economy." ■

Gas can ease Africa's energy challenges... (cont. from page 5)

"To compound the matter, off-grid regulation is yet to be fully developed, and the macroeconomic environment for investment is not supportive," the Economic Affairs Officer said.

Participants recommended that there was need for ensuring inclusivity in the sector; and the need to address justness of transition for sustainability.

"There is need for inclusive stakeholder engagement, reskilling, and support to affected communities and industries," Mr. Hailu said.

"Development of competitive energy markets to steer transition in an inclusive manner is important,



and this is the role of regulation. There is need for the development of sound national or regional energy transition plans to drive long-run energy mix."

He said mobilizing private sector investment through regulatory reform can address Africa's energy problems. ■

Congo Brazzaville takes reins from Zimbabwe in ARFSD Bureau

Held since February 2020 by Paul Mavima, Zimbabwe’s Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Minister, the Presidency of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) was entrusted Monday to Ms. Arlette Soudan Nonault, Congolese Tourism and Environment Minister, when the seventh edition of the Forum kicked off in Brazzaville.

Ms. Soudan Nonault, whose country is hosting the seventh edition of ARFSD under the theme “Building forward better: Towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”, will hold the reins until the eighth session in 2022 in an East African country to be named before the end of this Forum.

As usual at the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, all the sub-regions are represented in the office chaired by Ms. Arlette Sudan Nonault.

The position of first Vice-Chair went Kenya (East Africa), that of Second Vice-Chair was



entrusted to Niger (West Africa), and Algeria, a North African country, is the third Vice-Chair. Zimbabwe becomes the secretariat of the bureau.

The previous bureau that was headed by Zimbabwe had the Democratic Republic of Congo (Central Africa) as the first Vice-President, Uganda (East Africa) as the second Vice-President and Liberia (West Africa) as the third Vice-President. Morocco (North Africa), which hosted the fifth edition of the meeting, headed the secretariat.

An annual meeting led by the Economic Commission for

Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the ARFSD aims to promote the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 which are mutually reinforcing.

ARFSD, the seventh edition of which ends on Thursday, contributes significantly to strengthening the multi-stakeholder engagement made by stakeholders and the synergies that exist between them, as well as making them work together to implement and achieve the development objectives defined in the two agendas. ■



ARFSD in picture s

