



COP28 • Side Event

Announcement of new programmes and expansion of the AFCIA Partnership

*Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

5 December 2023, 15:00 – 16:00 | UGIH – Global Innovation Hub

Event description

In the face of escalating climate crises in the Global South, where devastating floods, soaring temperatures, and rampant wildfires have become stark realities, the need for enhanced investment in climate adaptation and resilience is more urgent than ever. It transcends mere statistics, demanding localized, affordable, inclusive, and innovative solutions rooted in the unique challenges of the Global South. Current international adaptation financing falls drastically short, with an annual allocation barely surpassing US\$ 50 billion, while the projected adaptation needs by 2030 range from US\$ 160-340 billion and could soar to US\$ 315-565 billion by 2050. This widening gap underscores the pressing need for private investment. The imperative for innovative, local, affordable, and inclusive solutions is undeniable. Community-driven initiatives not only prove cost-effective but are tailored to the unique challenges faced in the Global South, empowering communities to construct resilience from the ground up.

We are therefore proud to announce the expansion of the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) partnership at COP28 by addition of two new partners, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Food Program (WFP). AFCIA is a pioneering innovation accelerator program, which aims to ignite and accelerate innovation in climate change adaptation in developing countries and generate evidence of effective solutions that can be scaled-up. Under the auspices of the AFCIA partnership, UNIDO and WFP will administer programmes that will give out small grants and technical support to a wide range of beneficiaries globally in the amount of US\$ 20 million.

The accelerator was first announced by the Adaptation Fund at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid in December 2019 and launched in November 2020 by AF together with UNDP and UNEP/CTCN. The event will bring together high-level policy makers, industry leaders, investors, entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders to discuss how AFCIA accelerates innovation in climate adaptation.

Key objectives of the event:

- Championing the mission of the Adaptation Fund, UNIDO and WFP in catalyzing innovation in climate adaptation.
- Unveiling two AFCIA initiatives implemented by UNIDO and WFP worth US\$ 20 million.
- Showcasing innovative climate adaptation entrepreneurs



Draft Event Program

Time	Speaker/intervention
15:00 – 15:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Welcome: Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Head of Adaptation Fund (5 min)
15:05 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scene setting and launch of two new AFCIA programmes by UNIDO Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, Mr. Ciyong Zou, and WFP Deputy Executive Director Partnerships and Advocacy, Ms. Ute Klamert (prerecorded remarks) (10 min)
15:15 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights from the ongoing work under the AFCIA Partnership (2 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead Innovation and Programming Adaptation Fund, Ms. Saliha Dobardzic ○ UNDP Head Climate Change Adaptation, Ms. Srilata Kammila and ○ Director CTCN (a.i.) and Head CTCN Partnership and Liaison Office UNEP, Mr. Rajiv Garg • Presentation of UNIDO's AFCIA programme, Chief of Climate Technology Innovation Division Department of Energy UNIDO, Mr. Alois Mhlanga (7 min) • Presentation of WFP Innovation Accelerator AFCIA programme, Head of Innovation Accelerator WFP, Mr. Bernhard Kowatsch (7 min)
15:40– 15:50	<p>Showcasing by Adaptation Innovators 10 mins (3 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Adaptation Company (WFP Innovation Accelerator) – Ms. Nidhi Pant, Co-founder of S4S Technologies India • UNDP-AFCIA grantee – Mr. Vincent Mariadho, National Coordinator of ProInnova Kenya • UNEP-CTCN NDE St. Kitts and Nevis -Ms. Cheryl Jeffers, Drought risk modeling for water supply resilience St. Kitts and Nevis
15:50 – 16:00	<p>Concluding remarks and Group Photo Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary, Mr. Simon Stiell (TBC)

Partners and contacts

Adaptation Fund: Saliha Dobardzic (sdobardzic@adaptation-fund.org)

UNIDO: Alois Mhlanga (a.mhlanga@unido.org), Sunyoung Suh (s.suh@unido.org)

WFP: Bernhard Kowatsch (bernhard.kowatsch@wfp.org)



Speakers (in order):



Mikko Ollikainen, Head of the Adaptation Fund

Mikko leads the Fund's secretariat located in Washington, D.C. He has 20 years of experience in climate change and other global environmental issues. Before taking office as the Manager in 2017, he served as a lead adaptation expert of the Fund since 2009, playing a key role in building the Adaptation Fund's portfolio of concrete adaptation projects which currently consists of more than 125 projects and programmes, including more than 30 that are nationally implemented. He also led the development and implementation of the Fund's medium-term strategy, which sets out the Fund's ambitious vision of accelerating adaptation action, innovation, and learning.



Ciyong Zou, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, UNIDO

Mr Zou is also the Director General's Special Representative for the G77 and China. At UNIDO since 2013, Zou is the architect of UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership, and has guided the Organization's field and strategic engagements. Before joining UNIDO, he performed multiple roles, including as Deputy Director General of International Department at the Chinese Ministry of Finance, Alternate to the Chinese Executive Director at the World Bank, and Global Environmental Facility Operational Focal Point for China.



Ute Klamert, Deputy Executive Director Partnerships and Advocacy WFP

Ute Klamert joined WFP as Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships and Advocacy in February 2019, leading the organization's engagement and resource mobilization activities with governments, United Nations agencies, private sector and other resource partners. In this role, expanding the partnerships and advocacy functional support to the WFP mandate, her priorities include diversification of funding sources by fostering engagement with International Financial Institutions (IFI) and by creating an enabling organisational environment for specific domains such as thematic funding and climate action financing. Ms. Klamert also drives corporate communications and advocacy efforts to further WFP's mission of 'saving lives, changing lives'.



Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist with the Adaptation Fund

Saliha coordinates Programming and Innovation, including over half a billion of dollars in funding requests annually and leading the development of the Fund's innovation program since joining the Fund in 2018. Prior to this role, she was a Senior Climate Change Specialist with the Global Environment Facility's climate change adaptation program, namely the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, working on various strategic, technical, and policy aspects of \$1.4 billion program portfolio. Previously, Saliha worked on environmental, international waters, and integrated coastal zone management issues with the World Bank's MENA region.



Ms. Srilata Kammila, Head Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP

Srilata serves as the Head for Climate Change Adaptation, in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at UNDP. She is responsible for strategic leadership and management of adaptation programming in over 100 countries and oversees UNDP's support to countries on mainstreaming adaptation into policy and planning. UNDP's adaptation portfolio assists countries to advance climate-resilient development in the context of the SDG agenda. Prior to joining UNDP, Srilata worked at the World Bank and guided several cross-sectoral projects in Africa, Asia and Small Island Developing States to deploy low-emission technologies (including solar, wind and geothermal). Srilata holds a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) degree from University of Alberta in Canada and a joint Masters in Business Administration from MIT and Master of Public Administration from Harvard, USA.



Rajiv Garg, Director CTCN (a.i.) and Head CTCN Partnership and Liaison Office UNEP

Mr Garg has several years of experience on issues related to climate technologies in developing countries. Prior to working for UNEP, he worked for 15 years in the Indian Government on policy issues and led implementation of a number of programmes and initiatives on energy, water management, Remote Sensing and GIS, pollution minimization and control, waste management, EIA, resource efficiency & cleaner production and Green Productivity.



Alois P. Mhlanga, Chief of Climate Technologies Innovation Unit in the Decarbonisation and Sustainable Energy Division, UNIDO

Alois has over 23 years of experience in the sustainable energy and climate change field and is passionate about the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in the transition to low-carbon and climate resilient economies. He was responsible for flagship programmes in UNIDO such as the establishment of the regional centres for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS and SADC regions and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme. Before joining UNIDO, Alois was a Renewable Energy Expert at the African Development Bank managing investments in sustainable energy across Africa.



Mr. Bernhard Kowatsch, Head of Innovation Accelerator, WFP

Bernhard Kowatsch is founder and head of the Innovation Accelerator at the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The WFP Innovation Accelerator was named by Fast Company as one of the 10 Most Innovative Companies of 2017 in Food for its work in identifying, nurturing and scaling disruptive startups that accelerate innovations to address global hunger. Innovations include blockchain, agri-tech, supply chain and new businesses to end hunger. Most recently, the Accelerator runs programmes for external partners such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



Nidhi Pant, Co-Founder of Science For Society, or S4S Technologies



The company that helps farmers earn extra income by converting farm losses to value added products with its patented, award-winning solar dehydration technology. S4S technologies provides these micro-entrepreneurs with the right combination of technology, finance, and market linkage to set them up for success, working with over 6500 farmers, 505 Micro-Entrepreneurs and serves 850 Food and Beverage Customers including marquee brands like Marico, Nestle, Sodexo, and Indian Railways.

Mr. Vincent Mariadho, National Coordinator of Prolinnova Kenya



Vincent graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Management of Agroecosystems and Environment from the University of Nairobi. His professional background has predominantly revolved around community-based development, particularly in the areas of climate change and adaptation. He has also been actively involved in enhancing the capabilities of rural smallholder farmers through various development initiatives, focusing on aspects such as agricultural production, food and nutrition security, natural resource management, and livelihoods.

Cheryl Jeffers, Drought risk modeling for water supply resilience St. Kitts and Nevis



Cheryl is a trained meteorological technician with over 10 years of experience in climate change negotiations. Cheryl holds a master's degree in project management from the Florida Institute of Technology. Prior to working at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, she worked at MRV Hub, and as a Conservation Officer, leading the implementation of climate change-related projects, particularly supporting sectors such as water in an effort to improve and enhance climate resilience.

Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (TBC)



Mr. Stiell served as senior minister in the Government of Grenada from 2013 until June 2022, holding the portfolio of Minister for Climate Resilience and the Environment for five years. He previously served as Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, Minister of State with responsibility for human resource development and the environment and as a Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries. He also served as a member of Grenada's Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, where he served as Leader of Government Business.