



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 Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller and Deputy Executive Director Partnerships and Advocacy WFP, Ute Klamert (pre-recorded 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, Saliha Dobardzic ○ UNDP Head Climate Change Adaptation, Srilata Kammila and ○ Director CTCN (a.i.) and Head CTCN Partnership and Liaison Office UNEP, 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) – Nidhi Pant, Co-founder of S4S Technologies India • UNDP-AFCIA grantee - Vincent Mariadho, National Coordinator of Prolinnova Kenya • UNEP-CTCN NDE St. Kitts and Nevis - 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, 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:



Alois P. Mhlanga is the Chief of Climate Technologies Innovation Unit in the Decarbonisation and Sustainable Energy Division at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He 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.



Gerd Müller, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as of 10 December 2021, has had various leadership positions from an early stage in his career.

Between 1980 and 1989, he was a teacher at vocational schools and a civil servant at the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. From 1989 to 1994, he served as a Member of the European Parliament, during which time he was a member of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Between 1994 and 2021, he served as a Member of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, and as a member of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Economic

Cooperation and Development. In 2005, he was appointed Deputy Minister at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, in charge of international relations, development projects and world food affairs. In 2013, he was appointed Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, a position he held until 2021.



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.



Mr. Vincent Mariadho, National Coordinator of Prolinnova Kenya, 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.

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In Kenya, the initiative 'Building Community Resilience to Climate Change through Locally Formulated Dairy Goat Meal (LOFODA-G-Meal)' aims to enhance climate resilience in households within Kisumu County. This is achieved by promoting increased dairy goat keeping through the utilization of locally-formulated, sustainable dairy goat meal. A small company has developed a cost-effective goat feed made from locally sourced materials. Scaling up goat farming not only generates income from goat rearing but also from the production of this new food source.



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 S4S Technologies India

Nidhi Pant is the Co-Founder of Science For Society, or S4S Technologies, a 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.



Rajiv Garg, Director CTCN (a.i.) and Head CTCN Partnership and Liaison Office UNEP. CTCN is a program hosted by the UN Environment Programme. 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.



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'.

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