

## Harnessing the potential of African Islands to build forward better

Kigali, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 16h-17h30

Zoom link for virtual participation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89350190350>

*Sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development*

### Abstract

Island nations in Africa are undertaking substantial efforts to promote an inclusive and resilient growth, based on the green and blue economy to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063. Nevertheless, those efforts are significantly challenged by insularity, fragile economy, vulnerability to climate change and small populations.

Their engagement to achieve these goals have been reflected in their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). Cabo Verde submitted it in 2018 and 2021, Comoros in 2020 and it is preparing the next one for 2023, Madagascar in 2016 and 2021, Mauritius in 2019 and Seychelles in 2020. Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome & Principe will be presenting their VNR this year.

This high-level side event during the 8<sup>th</sup> *African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development* (ARFSD) brings together ministers and senior government officials from African Islands, development partners and representatives from the Major Groups to discuss innovative actions and financial mechanisms that harness their potential to advance an inclusive and resilient development for the islands. The Sahel, Congo Basin and African Islands Climate Commissions representatives will also participate to enrich the discussions and reinforce the community of practice on climate resilient development.

The event is structured in two main panels followed by an open discussion. Speakers and audience will have the opportunity to share their experiences and lessons learned in their commitment to achieve SDG targets, in particular on Goals 14, 15 and 17. They will build in the recommendations of the *SAMOA Pathway* and the *Santa Maria Call to Action* of the *IX Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference* (CCDA), as well as in the conclusions of SIDS high level events in the COPs of the UNFCCC, including the recent one at COP 26 in Glasgow on *African Islands: Transitioning towards a climate smart and resilient future*.

### Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks (10')

- Ministerial Panel (30') – Island nations efforts to build a future based in an inclusive and resilient growth to achieve sustainable development
- Partners Panel (30') – Innovative opportunities for African Islands to build forward better
- Discussion (15')
- Closing Remarks (5')

## Speakers and panelists

- Governments (8): Ministers of Finance and Environment of Cabo Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe and Seychelles
- Development partners (6): UN DSG, ECA ES, AUC ARBE, AfDB VPR, IOC-COI SG, AUDA-NEPAD, GCF
- MGoS (3): Academia, Private Sector, CSO/Youth
- Climate Commissions Representatives from Sahel and Congo Basin (2)
- Moderator: ECA

## Organizers

- UN Economic Commission for Africa
- African Union Commission
- African Development Bank
- Indian Ocean Commission
- Governments of Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Seychelles