

## ***Leveraging climate research partnerships for resilient development planning and implementation of the SDGs in Africa***

Proposed side event, 8th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Organizers: Climate Policy Laboratory, The Fletcher School, Tufts University and the African Climate Policy Centre, ECA

### ***Draft Concept Note***

#### **Context**

The Climate Policy Laboratory of The Fletcher School at Tufts University and the African Climate Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa are proposing a side event at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the topic of “***Leveraging climate research partnerships for resilient development planning and implementation of the SDGs in Africa***”.

Africa, which is 17 percent of the global population and accounts less than 4 percent of global emissions, is the region impacted the most by climate change and has a very low adaptive capacity to build resilience. Climate change is causing the continent on average 5 percent loss of GDP and many governments are spending, unplanned, significant amounts of their budgets to respond to extreme weather events caused by climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation by significantly reducing the fiscal space of African countries and increasing the debt vulnerability of those countries at a time when significant investments need to be made to recover from the pandemic. This has huge implications on attainment of the SDGs and the development aspirations of Agenda 2063 on the continent, where many countries before the pandemic were either stagnating or indeed regressing on progress with the SDGs. These challenges to attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 cannot be adequately addressed without addressing climate change. Many governments identify climate policies as a tool for ensuring a more sustainable and prosperous development pathway. However, it is important clarify and articulate the development co-benefits and potential trade-offs of different climate policies, recognizing that this analysis is central to the decision-making of policymakers. In this regard, climate research partnerships, knowledge sharing and support for capacity enhancement for policy makers are critical.

#### **Objective**

To showcase opportunities for leveraging climate research and information sharing partnerships at the global and regional levels to inform policy-making trade-offs for sustainable development planning under changing climate in a tailored and inclusive, greener, and resilient approach. The side event will share ideas for African policy options and discuss an integrated approach of partnerships and collaboration (SDG 17) to foster knowledge transfer and mobilize finances for climate research and education (SDGs 4) for implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

#### **Speakers**

Speakers are intended to be high-level research and policy officials from various organizations, including ECA, Tufts University, AAS, FCDO, GIZ, USAID, UNU-INRA, UNESCO, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, as well as African research institutions.