



Regional
Green Economy
Forum

High-Level Roundtable on: **The Role of Private Investment in Achieving Carbon Neutrality in African Cities: Challenges and Opportunities**



25th of July 2025
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Tangier, Morocco Time)



Hilton Houara Tangier,
Tangier, Morocco

CONCEPT NOTE

ORGANIZED BY



WORLD GREEN ECONOMY
ORGANIZATION

SUPPORTED BY

ROYAUME DU MAROC

MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉNERGÉTIQUE
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

Département du Développement Durable



المملكة المغربية
ROYAUME DU MAROC

وزارة الانتقال الطاقوي والتنمية المستدامة
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DÉPARTEMENT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

HOSTED BY



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Introduction

African cities are at the forefront of the global drive towards carbon neutrality, but they face major challenges in terms of funding gaps, outdated infrastructure and regulatory barriers that are slowing down their green transition. The private sector is key to filling these gaps, providing capital, technology and scalable solutions to decarbonise urban systems, from energy to transport and construction.

The strategic alignment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with private investment is a key success factor. Strengthened NDCs not only set ambitious climate targets, but they also unlock economic opportunities, as seen in countries where clean energy sectors are stimulating GDP growth and job creation while reducing emissions.

To accelerate this transition, African cities need to prioritise the following:

- Mixed financing mechanisms to attract and reduce the risks of private investment in sustainable infrastructure.
- Public-private partnerships that align urban climate strategies with business innovation.
- Policy frameworks that encourage green technologies and circular economy models.

This high-level roundtable will focus on turning commitments into action, presenting practical strategies for mobilising private sector leadership to advance carbon-neutral and climate-resilient urbanisation.

Context and Objectives

In the global race toward carbon neutrality, African cities are both epicentres of emissions and pivotal points of the transition. They are the focus of rapid urbanization, infrastructure needs, population growth, and therefore the greatest potential for transformation.

Yet, despite this crucial role, they remain marginalized in financial flows: only 3% of global climate financing reaches them, while Africa bears 20% of the impacts of climate change.

Faced with this paradox, achieving urban carbon neutrality in Africa requires a shift in scale: mobilizing financing, aligning NDCs with urban plans, developing concrete low-carbon projects, and building strong partnerships with the private sector.

The New Quantified Collective Goal (NCQG), currently being negotiated as part of COP30, represents a crucial opportunity to ensure greater and equitable access for African cities to international climate finance.

COP30 must accelerate this momentum by making African cities strategic players in the pursuit of carbon neutrality.

Key Questions to Frame the Debate – Carbon Neutrality in African Cities

How can the NCQG be used as a structuring lever to accelerate the transition of African cities to carbon neutrality?

What incentives and financial instruments can mobilize the African private sector around low-carbon urban projects?

How can carbon neutrality pathways be integrated into NDCs, fully involving cities in their design and implementation?

What types of public-private partnerships are most effective for developing urban infrastructure compatible with carbon neutrality?

What governance mechanisms would ensure that funding allocated to urban carbon neutrality is effectively deployed at the local level?

This high-level roundtable will foster open conversations among leaders, significantly contributing to the success of the RGEF 2025. Participants will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and expectations, facilitating multiple rounds of exchange to ensure a diversity of perspectives and comprehensive strategies to raise ambition and take effective action to achieve carbon neutrality in African cities.

A moderator will guide the discussions by posing a series of targeted questions to relevant participants.

Guidance for Interventions

Excellencies and distinguished participants are welcome to make interventions during this Roundtable. To maintain efficiency, speakers are limited to a maximum of three minutes.

Seating Arrangements

Please note that the session is open to the public. We welcome the participation of all interested attendees.

Agenda

Time	Session
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Opening Speech H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer Chairman, World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)
	Keynote Speech H.E. Leila Benali Minister, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco
	Host Country Remarks H.E. Omar Moro President of the Regional Council of Tangier, Tetouan, Al Hoceima
	Remarks from H.E. Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT Minister of the Environment of Congo H.E. Roger BARO Minister of the Environment, Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso H.E. Paula Francisco Coelho Former Minister of Environment, Angola James Grabert Director, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC Idrissa NASSA President of the Burkina Faso Employers' Association Serge Ekue President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD) Hon. Evariste Angelo Ahouandjinou Mayor of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, Co-Chair of the Transparency Commission, the Pan-African Private Sector Alliance for a Just Climate Transition Nancy CHENARD Executive Secretary General of Unicongo Dr. Jackson Koimbori Head of KEPSA Consult, Circular Economy and Climate Change, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Chakib ALJ President of the General Confederation of Moroccan Dr. Ruth Kattumuri Senior Director of Economic Services, Commonwealth Secretariat, Co-Chair of the Science and Innovation Committee of the Pan-African Private Sector Alliance for a Just Climate Transition François Menguele GIZ Programme Director Andy Deacon Director of Strategy and Operations GCoM Peter Odhengo Coordinator of the Africa Green Climate Finance Designated National Authorities Network (AfDAN) Mahamadou Gado Commissioner for Economic Policies and Internal Taxation of the UEMOA Commission
	Closing Remarks H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer Chairman, World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)
	Group Photo
	MOU Signing Ceremony with Tangier Tetouan Al-Hoceima Regional Council and Pan-African Private Sector Alliance for a Just Climate Transition
	Prayer and Lunch
	Moderator Hakima El Haiti President of the Pan-African Private Sector Alliance for a Just Climate Transition, COP22 Champion

*This is a tentative agenda and might be subject for modification.

Speakers



H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer

Chairman,
World Green Economy
Organization (WGEO)



H.E. Leila Benali

Minister, Ministry of Energy
Transition and Sustainable
Development, Morocco



H.E. Omar Moro

President of the Regional
Council of Tangier, Tetouan,
Al Hoceima

Moderator



**Hakima
El Haiti**

President of the Pan-African
Private Sector Alliance for a Just
Climate Transition, COP22 Champion



**H.E. Arlette
SOUDAN-NONAUT**

Minister of the Environment
of Congo



**H.E. Roger
BARO**

Minister of the Environment, Water
and Sanitation of
Burkina Faso



**H.E. Paula Francisco
Coelho**

Former Minister of
Environment, Angola



James Grabert

Director, Mitigation Division,
UNFCCC



Idrissa NASSA

President of the Burkina Faso
Employers' Association



Serge Ekue

President of the West African
Development Bank (BOAD)



**Hon. Evariste Angelo
Ahouandjinou**

Mayor of Abomey-Calavi, Benin,
Co-Chair of the Transparency Commission,
the Pan-African Private Sector Alliance
for a Just Climate Transition



Nancy CHENARD

Executive Secretary General
of Unicongo



Dr. Jackson Koimbori

Head of KEPSA Consult, Circular Economy
and Climate Change, Kenya Private Sector
Alliance (KEPSA)



Chakib ALJ

President of the General
Confederation of Moroccan



Dr. Ruth Kattumuri

Senior Director of Economic Services,
Commonwealth Secretariat, Co-Chair of
the Science and Innovation
Committee of the Pan-African Private
Sector Alliance for a Just Climate Transition



François Menguele

GIZ Programme Director



Andy Deacon

Director of Strategy and
Operations GCoM



Peter Odhengo

Coordinator of the Africa Green
Climate Finance Designated National
Authorities Network (AfDAN)



Mahamadou Gado

Commissioner for Economic Policies
and Internal Taxation of the UEMOA
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