2015 is a pivotal year for the African continent, a year which is shining a spotlight on development and climate. Among the many elements that signaled change this year, the new president of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, took office in Abidjan on September 1.

During his inauguration, the president emphatically announced the launch of a “New Deal” for energy in Africa. He said, "Unlocking Africa’s enormous energy potential, for Africa, will be a major focus of the Bank." To do this, he mentioned, among other things, the establishment of new strategic partnerships aimed at exploiting the potential of renewable energy in Africa. He added, “The Bank will be a leader on this critical initiative, because nothing is more important for Africa’s economic growth and development.” During consultations in Paris ahead of the upcoming global climate conference (COP21), he stressed his ambition for the continent, "The AfDB strongly supports the position of Africa in its growing need for resources to ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation."

With less than one hundred days until the global climate conference (COP21), the new president seems determined to defend the interests of the continent in the negotiations and to mobilize the actors needed to finance its needs.

**Indicators on INDC Progress in Africa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
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<td>Congo</td>
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As of 3 September 2015

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**Indicators are key for AfDB**

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) represent country ambitions in the fight against climate change and form the basis for negotiations that should lead to a global agreement at COP21. INDC submissions by African countries will allow the AfDB to identify investment opportunities in the fight against climate change and mobilize additional climate finance.

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- Ethiopia first country to benefit from ClimDev-Africa Special Fund
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**Financing for development: Enhanced MDB cooperation to further mobilize climate finance**

The IMF and multilateral development banks, including the AfDB, announced on July 10, their intention to extend US$ 400 billion in financing over the next three years to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These partners have played a key role in mobilizing climate finance (US$ 100 billion in four years) and intend to continue their efforts to develop low carbon and climate resilient economies. In the future, they have committed themselves to cooperate more with each other as well as with other climate funds such as the Climate Investment Funds, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental Fund, and partners such as those from the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

**Common principles for monitoring adaptation funding**

In July, AfDB, five other multilateral development banks and the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), agreed on a common set of principles for monitoring financial commitments to help countries prepare for the impact of climate change and build their resilience.
BY THE NUMBERS

Status of pledges & contributions made to the Green Climate Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total amount announced</th>
<th>Total amount signed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.2 billion</td>
<td>5.8 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50% of the GCF resources will be dedicated to adaptation, and half of those will go to the most vulnerable countries, including many African countries. Click here for more information.

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Climate 2020: Facing the future
UNA-UK

EBRD Climate Finance Global Partnerships: Accelerating the response to climate change

IN THE MEDIA

Resilience.

AFDB approves African Natural Resources Center (ANRC) strategy
The AfDB Board of Directors approved the ANRC 2015-2020 strategy on July 10. The strategy is based on two pillars: integrated planning of natural resources and good governance of these resources, including negotiations of investment contracts, the development of local policies, and accountability and public participation in the management of natural resources.

AFDB loan to improve investment climate and forest governance in Congo
The AfDB Board of Directors approved on July 1, a loan of US$ 22.5 million for the Republic of Congo to help finance the country’s Investment Climate and Forest Governance Support Project. The project will benefit the country as a whole—notably through the strengthening of institutional capacities and its businesses—and more broadly, the Congolese, the main beneficiaries of job creation.

Ethiopia first country to benefit from ClimDev-Africa Special Fund
The ClimDev-Africa Special Fund launched, on August 3, its first project in Ethiopia. At a total cost of € 1 million, the project aims to help the country deal with climate change by building the capacity of stakeholders in monitoring, analysis, interpretation, forecasting and dissemination of climate information required for decision making.

African Water Facility (AWF): Two projects strengthen resilience to climate change
In July, AWF approved a € 1.9 million grant for the Democratic Republic of Congo to improve drinking water and sanitation services in Kinshasa, as well as to expand the water supply of

FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Launch of West African Energy Leaders Group
At a top-level gathering of political and business leaders, President of Côte d’Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, officially launched the African Group of Energy Leaders for the West Africa region. The group was conceived under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its secretariat is hosted by the AfDB.

SE4All: Four new countries receive AfDB support
Through the African platform of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Bank is now supporting four new countries: Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Zimbabwe, in developing their action agendas and investment prospectuses to achieve the 2030 SE4All objectives.

SEFA: Power Transaction of the Year award winner
The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa received the Power Transaction of the Year award from the East African Power Industry on August 27. This award was granted to SEFA in support of an independent solar hybrid mini-grid project in rural Tanzania through a joint venture with Jumeme-Rural Power Supply Ltd.
services to Kinshasa-West. Some 3.5 million people will benefit from this extension. In Djibouti, the Saday Dam, for which the AWF funded pre-investment studies, innovative technical tests for collecting runoff and part of the construction work, was the subject of a handover ceremony. These two projects are building resilience to climate change.