



Background

The global Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the fragility and vulnerability of social and economic systems across the world and has reinforced the need to prepare for future shocks and to build resilience. It is a timely reminder that Africa must *'build forward better'*, not only in recovery from Covid-19 but to meet the other global challenge of climate change. A green transition is a choice that presents many opportunities for economic growth, job creation and livelihoods development. However, as with any transition, there are risk and cost implications.

The Green African Transformation (GREAT) Pathways project, led by United Nations University's Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), explores Africa's development priorities, in the context of the new cycle of Africa-Europe partnership, and outlines ways in which the European Green Deal could be beneficial for both Europe and Africa. The resulting Discussion Paper and Briefing Note raise questions around political economy issues such as what to do about stranded assets, examines transitional strategies to support Africa's recovery and green development pathways, and whether poses the question of whether natural gas is a strong contender for a bridging fuel.

The project makes use of a knowledge consortium including the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Adelphi, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and others. Several associated knowledge products were produced, ranging from a series of op-eds authored by a network of high-level Champions to policy briefs and human interest stories.

Aims and objectives of the webinar series

The main aim is to present the key messages of the project and provide recommendations for Africa's green transition and opportunities for Africa-Europe partnership. It is hoped that this will push forward visionary African perspectives that may lead to higher ambitions for cooperation between the regions ahead of the upcoming Africa-Europe Summit in 2022. The outreach will provide a platform to facilitate dialogue for policymakers, academics, civil society and other stakeholders to better inform policy options and negotiations during the Summit. The webinar series will be co-convened by UNU-INRA and The Brookings Institution.

Specific objectives:

1. Raise awareness of policymakers in Africa to the existential threats of a continued carbon-reliant growth model and provide compelling narratives for a safe growth and low carbon resilient trajectory.
2. Identify ways that Europe can support Africa's green transition in line with the European Green Deal to ensure continued multilateral trade and cooperation between the regions.
3. Prepare African leaders to address the challenges associated with stranded assets and seize the opportunities for clean transitions while positioning Africa to take advantage of a new generation of minerals for the fourth industrial revolution.
4. Argue in favour of efficient resource planning that will enable Africa to shape and lead its own energy future.
5. Facilitate dialogue to support future partnerships between Africa and Europe along the guidelines of the new European Green Deal.

Outreach architecture

The webinar series will consist of a 'ceremonial' launch and three technical webinars highlighting thematic areas around green transitions. The main launch will take place on 14th June 2021, while the subsequent webinars will happen at monthly intervals starting in July and ending in September (preferably on the 16th of each month. Due to Covid-19, the events will take place virtually.

The launch will consist of a keynote speech and a high-level panel at the ministerial level, as well as a summary of the findings of UNU-INRA. The presentations will be followed by a discussion session where experts, policymakers and practitioners will be invited to share their thoughts on the findings of the report. The launch will conclude with a Q&A session open to the audience. The estimated time for the virtual event is 2 hours.

The target audience will include government representatives, policy makers, parliamentarians, representatives of private sector, media, civil society organisations, and other experts.

The technical webinars will take the form of a debate-like structure where two main speakers will provide their expert opinions and a challenger/discussant will provide a rebuttal that contests the arguments. A moderator will frame the discussion and facilitate a structured question and answer session. The moderator will invite a select group of people to put forward their perspectives and viewpoints to reflect the multiple dimension of the problématique. The estimated time for the mini-events is 1 hour 30 minutes. The webinars will cover the themes: 1) Just Transitions; 2) Green Transitions and the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); 3) Stranded assets and the future of energy resources.

This series of events will drive discussion around an African position on green transitions and partnership with Europe in the run-up to COP26.

Webinar dates:

Launch - 14 June 2021 - tbc.

- The launch will take place as a side-event during UNFCCC's Africa Climate Week 2021.

Webinar 2 - 16 July 2021 - tbc.

Webinar 3 - 16 August 2021 - tbc.

Webinar 4 - 16 September 2021 - tbc.

Draft launch agenda:

Time (minutes)	Item	Responsible
0-5	Welcome and Introduction of UNU-INRA and the agenda	Chair, UNU-INRA
5-10	Keynote speech 1: Africa's development priorities	African Union Commission representative
10-15	Keynote speech 2: Europe's Africa strategy for green development	European Commission representative
15-40	Launch of discussion paper and key messages	UNU-INRA
40-60	High-level panel - structured discussion highlighting thematic areas (just transitions, energy, natural gas, trade/AfCFTA, 4IR)	AU Commissioner, EC Commissioner, Executive Secretary UN-ECA, Ministers
60-80	Reactions	Consortium members, Academia, Private Sector, Civil Society,
80-110	Q&A	Plenary
110-120	Closing remarks	Chair

Potential speakers:

- Madam Josefa Sacko - African Union Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture.
- Ken Ofori-Atta - Minister of Finance, Ghana.
- Hon. Lefoko Moagi - Minister for Mineral Resources, Green Technology & Energy Security, Botswana.
- Martin Jäger - State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- Vera Songwe - Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
- Ángel Losada Fernández - EU Special Representative for the Sahel.

- Ibrahim Thiaw - Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Alternate List

- Amani Abou-Zeid - African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy.
- Frans Timmermans - Executive Vice-President of the European Commission.
- Jutta Urpilainen - European Commissioner for International Partnerships.
- Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of United Nations-Energy, and Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).
- Kandeh Yumkella - Special Advisor on leading African energy initiatives and agricultural economist, and the former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for SEforALL.
- Dr. Léautier - Senior Partner at SouthBridge Group and CEO of SouthBridge Investments.
- Dr. Kwaku Afriyie - Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana.

Target audiences:

- Primarily, African policy-makers and government officials .
- European policy-makers and government officials.
- EU-Africa partnership brokers/coordinators.
- African experts/scientists/academics in natural resource management/governance and climate.
- Private sector related to energy and industry.
- Development partners.
- Civil society and media.

Roles and contributions

UNU-INRA roles:

- Overall webinar design and production.
- Develop agenda and create event pages.
- Invite speakers and participants.
- Coordinate communication plan and develop promotional material.
- Publicise events through social media channels and website to raise awareness about the event and to publicise the key messages.
- Produce communications materials including press releases and media press kit.

Brookings Institution roles:

- Co-design and produce webinars.
- Host events via Zoom and provide IT support.
- Support with inviting and securing speakers.

- Participate in events by providing a speaker and/or contributing to discussion session.
- Provide PR, media and network support.
- Publicise events on website and social media channels and circulate invitation.
- Support production of communications materials, including press releases.

Outputs and proceedings

Following the launch we will release a summary of proceedings. We will also share online articles and blogs. The invited media will also be expected to release articles about the event. The team will also liaise with the press to undertake interviews of the speakers if needed to support their articles.

A full video of the launch event will be available on Youtube, Facebook and on our website. We will also create a short 3-minute video using snippets of the speeches and discussion. Quotations from speakers will be collected to create quote cards to share on social media. Content from the launch will be used to promote the subsequent webinars.