



Africa-Europe Foundation

78th Session of the UN General Assembly

Africa-Europe Foundation at UNGA78

The 78th Session of the UN General Assembly will be taking place in New York City this September 2023. The theme for the session was announced by UNGA78 President-elect, H.E. Dennis Francis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN:

‘Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all’.

Within this context, on 18-19 September, the SDG Summit will mark the midterm review of the state of the global goals, delivering guidance on the accelerated actions needed to implement Agenda 2030. This represents a key opportunity for the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) to contribute to wider development conversations by bringing into focus the untapped opportunities within the cross-continental partnership to meet critical targets.

As such, AEF will drive the upcoming conversation at UNGA78 towards the climate-health nexus, focusing on the role of commitment monitoring and global governance reform to further implementation and finance. These focus areas stem from the outcomes of our strategic dialogues with Africa-Europe stakeholders over the course of the first half of the 2023 multilateral agenda: from the Ibrahim Governance Weekend to the Paris Summit on a New Global Financing Pact and the most recent Africa Climate Summit.

AEF Programme at a Glance

The Africa-Europe Foundation’s proposed programme focuses on both public and closed-door strategic dialogues dedicated to areas of cooperation that hold promise for enhanced Africa-Europe cooperation:

Climate and Health in the Redesign of the International Financial System

18 September 2023, 7:30-9:30am EST, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN (*hybrid, invite-only*)

This in-person meeting of AEF’s Women Leaders Network (WLN) will take stock of the 2023 dialogues on the redesign of the international financial system through the lens of the climate-health nexus. Co-chaired by Mary Robinson and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the meeting follows the Nairobi WLN meeting at the Ibrahim Governance Weekend 2023 (April) focused on global governance and financial reforms. Participants will consider actionable recommendations for advancing a holistic approach to climate and health at the UN Climate Change Conference 2023 (COP28) in November.

Special guests and WLN members confirmed to contribute to the high-level opening panel include United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva and Director General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Commentary will be provided by Climate Justice Activist Vanessa Nakate.

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Time to Adapt: Accelerating Climate Adaptation for Health Equity

20 September 2023, 9am-10am EST, Studio Gather Rockefeller Center (*hybrid, public*)

This strategic dialogue, done in partnership with Foundation S and Foreign Policy, aims to address the impact climate change has on global health. Participants will dive into the climate-health nexus from the point of view of boosting climate adaptation capacity and finance to ensure health equity in vulnerable communities. It is an opportunity to bring together key voices and mobilise an Africa-Europe “coalition of the willing” to foster collective action and advance adaptation commitments in advance of COP28. The event will also welcome the launch of the Collective Minds Climate Council’s Action Report - *Forging a New Deal for the Climate and Health Emergency: Catalyzing Solutions for Community Adaptation* - a call to action to empower local communities in their adaptation efforts.

APPENDIX 1 Time to Adapt: Accelerating Climate Adaptation for Health Equity

Joint event held partnership with Foundation S & Foreign Policy

Date: Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Time: 09:00-10:00 EST

Format: In-person and online

Venue: Studio Gather in Rockefeller Center, 45 Rockefeller Plaza 27th Floor, New York

Registration: [Link](#)

Context:

The impacts of climate change on global health are unfolding at a distressing pace. Compromised food systems, widespread water shortages, and pollution are mounting pressure on primary healthcare infrastructure and deteriorating health outcomes globally. Furthermore, developing countries, despite having a minimal contribution to the global carbon footprint, are bearing the most severe consequences of these interconnected challenges. Addressing health effects caused by climate change will require collective mobilization, particularly with respect to funding. The health sector has not been a target of climate financing, with a negligible fraction of global health funding aligning with climate adaptation. A growing, multi-stakeholder push to rethink the global financial architecture, however, as proposed in the Bridgetown Initiative and addressed by the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris this June, presents an opportunity to integrate issues of health equity and health system resilience into broader climate action plans more directly.

Against this backdrop, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) and Foundation S, in partnership with Foreign Policy will host a high-level event to spotlight the health challenges posed by climate change and to advance the conversation on the financing required to support climate adaptation in order to achieve health equity. The event will also launch an action report that highlights the connection between climate change and health, and the importance of supporting locally led adaptation solutions to strengthen health resilience in the face of climate change.

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Agenda (times in EST):

8:30 - 9:00am	<i>Breakfast and Registration</i>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Sollinger, Publisher & CEO, <i>Foreign Policy</i>
9:02 a.m.	Framing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanina Laurent-Ledru, Director General Foundation S
9:04 a.m.	Opening Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)
9:12 a.m.	Presidential Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President, the Republic of Malawi
9:19 a.m.	Ministerial Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships, France
9:24 a.m.	Panel Discussion Climate, Health, and Equity: Local Challenges and Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of State, Republic of Senegal • Anil Soni, CEO, World Health Organization Foundation • Dr. Vanessa Kerry, World Health Organization Special Envoy for Climate and Health Moderator: Dr. Mayesha Alam , Vice President of FP Analytics, Foreign Policy
9:48 a.m.	Cross-Continental Alliances and Private Sector Imperatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josep Catllá, Head of Communications and Corporate Affairs, Sanofi • Paul Walton, Executive Director, Africa-Europe Foundation Moderator: Andrew Sollinger , Publisher & CEO, Foreign Policy
9:58 a.m.	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Sollinger, Publisher & CEO, <i>Foreign Policy</i>

For further information, please contact:

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