



**26 February– 2
March 2023**

MISSION REPORT

GCSAYN DELEGATION TO THE 9TH AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: NIAMEY, REPUBLIC OF NIGER

**Prepared by
GCSAYN Delegation**

INTRODUCTION

Country Name & City:	Niger, Republic of Niger
Title of the Programme/Activities organized:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, FRADD9
Date & Venue:	27 February to 2 March 2023
Numbers of participants:	2000 attendees
Member of the GCSAYN Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ntiokam Divine, Founder and Executive Director GCSAYN Ms. Pascaline Yao, Country Lead GCSAYN Ivory Coast Mr. Mahamat Saleh Moussa, Country Lead GCSAYN CHAD
Target groups (young people, women, people with disabilities, etc.)	International institutions, Member States of the United Nations System, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, technical and financial development partners, etc.
Name of partners/supporters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Contact:	

Description of program/activities

In the African capital of the Republic of Niger, from 27 February to 2 March, 2023, the 9th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was held on the theme "Accelerating inclusive and green recovery after multiple crises and the integrated and integral implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063". As a prelude to this forum, a series of meetings and working sessions were held on specific themes such as the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, the 4th African Climate Talks, the Pan-African Alliance for Climate Justice, the STI Breakout on the implementation of the UNESCO recommendation on open science, the ECA Hackathon on resilience to climate change.

The network took an active part in all the meetings organized in this context and was represented by Ms. Pascaline Yao as a speaker in the panel on the theme "Taking advantage of the Great Green Wall and adaptation based on ecosystems to building resilience and improving gender and youth entrepreneurship opportunities in the Sahel".

General objective of the 4th ACT

The specific objective of the 4th ACT is to interpret scientific data from IPCC reports and the resulting implications for climate action, energy transition, human insecurity, food security and environmental, social and (ESG) in Africa. The speech will be guided by the theme of the talks namely "Strengthening climate resilience for better human security in the Sahel region", which will contribute to the tenth deliberations of the CCDA and shape Africa's priorities at COP28.

Specific objectives

To ensure that there is adequate discourse and engagement on the aforementioned regional climate change challenges, the deliberations of the event will be organized around the following topics:

- Implications of the IPCC AR6 on Africa's development aspirations with a focus on resilient infrastructure and free trade;
- Milestones and imperatives of climate action and energy transition.

- Unpacking Regional Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Perspectives in Africa;
- Implications of the IPCC AR6 on disasters and multi-hazard early warning and response systems in Africa 3
- State of the Loss and Damage Discourse and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
- Challenges and strategies to address disaster-related displacement and climate-induced food and human insecurity;
- Surfing on climate change, the recovery from Covid-19 and the economic storm;
- Perspectives and key messages to shape Africa's priorities at COP28

Key Achievements :

At the end of this forum, major resolutions were taken, key words for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the writing of an oral communication for the Annual Forum in September 2023 in New York in the United States. Among these statements, here are some of the most important:

- It is time for Africa to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Under-Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told the 9th session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-9) in Niamey, Niger, calling for greater leadership, commitment and investment in achieving the SDGs.
- “We have a common understanding that through solutions led by Africa born on African soil, we can change course and rise to the challenge of achieving Agenda 2063 and the SDGs,” Ms. Amina Mohamed told delegates from ARFSD, adding that: “Global leaders must set clear ambitions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 and must do so by investing in Africa, investing in our economies, investing in our people, especially our women and young people.
- Citing growing intra-African trade and the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in lifting 30 million Africans out of poverty, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that African leaders have endorsed industrialization sustainability and economic diversification as key to Africa's development. She added that emerging green and digital technologies must be harnessed to serve Africa.
- Ahead of the SDG Summit in September 2023, Ms. Amina Mohamed urged African leaders to set clear ambitions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 by leveraging financing and aligning clear SDG commitments to national institutions and budgets.
- In his opening remarks, President Mohamed Bazoum of Niger noted that his country was experiencing challenges such as conflict and food insecurity due to climate change.

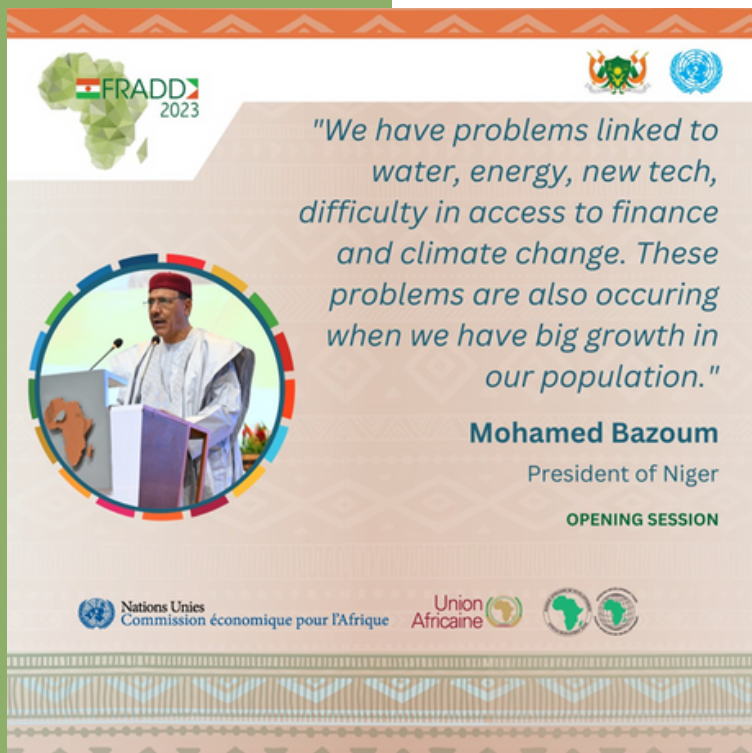
- “We must all be convinced that achieving real progress on the 2063 agenda and the 2030 agenda must happen through the promotion of a fair planet, which includes economic growth and environmental protection.” said Mr. Bazoum.
- ECA Acting Executive Secretary Antonio Pedro noted that digital technologies will be crucial in fueling Africa's transformation. E-commerce, for example, is expected to grow 50% in Africa by 2025, Pedro said. To that end, he added, we must bridge the digital divide, especially along gender lines to ensure true inclusion, and unlock the potential of the 4th Industrial Revolution. “Business as usual will not work for Africa,” he said, noting that Africa would revert to some of the SDGs, including SDG #9 to build resilient infrastructure, foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.
- Speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Vice-Chairperson of the AUC, said Agenda 2023 and Agenda 2063 “remain robust and essential plans for transforming and realizing the well-being of the peoples of the Africa we want”



MAIN CHALLENGES

The real difficulties are first of all logistical because the transmission of plane tickets was very organized. During the forum, there are quite a few large sessions that were held simultaneously. As a result, it was a little difficult to participate in the various sessions and to benefit from them on the topics discussed.

Quotes from participants/beneficiaries





"Africa's accelerated transformation will be fuelled by digital technologies. To this end we must bridge the digital divide."

Antonio Pedro

Acting Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa

OPENING SESSION



This regional forum in Niamey will give us the opportunity to build our capacity and reinforce our partnerships, and also to evaluate our progress in finding sustainable solutions to face challenges.

Adalgisa Barbosa Vaze

State Secretary for Business Promotion
Cabo Verde

OPENING SESSION



"To achieve climate resilience, we need to give attention to adolescent girls, who miss out on graduation because they have to walk long distances to fetch water, resulting in the feminisation of poverty in Africa."

Diene Keita

Assistant Secretary-General
United Nations Population Fund

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 2



"Africa has low level data capacity, despite having the second largest population in the world. This points to a need for training of data professionals, particularly young people, while leveraging data and technology to help in the achievement of the SDGs."

Sassire Napo

Executive Committee Chair, Takwimu Young African Statisticians
Programme



"There is a lack of digital skills. In Namibia, we have digital ambassadors who are helping young people to gain the basic skills needed to participate in digital learning."

Emma Theophelus

Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technologies
Namibia

PLENARY ROUND-TABLE PANEL





"We need to go back to the foundations and revisit the social contracts underlying our societies. We have to harness our diversity and find ways to live in peace and stability in multi-ethnic societies."

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga

Special Representative of the Secretary-General
African Union

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS



"Governance is fundamental to achieving peace, security and development. It is also about inclusive participation, especially that of youth in the formulation of policy, the rule of law and predictable administration."

Prof. Said Adejumo

Director, Strategic Planning, Oversight
and Results Division, UNECA



"The regional collaborative platform brings the UN system together to coalesce around opportunities and issues that can unleash the promise of Africa. It identifies and directs investment to the accelerators that can help achieve the SDGs."

Joy Kategekwa

Representative of the Joint Secretariat
Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa

GENERAL DISCUSSIONS



"At the midpoint in our quest to achieve the SDGs, we need a new paradigm; we need to accelerate our efforts, as we seek to recover from the multiple crises that have beset the world."

Hanan Morsy

Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief
Economist, ECA



"Member states should broaden the involvement of the private sector in innovation and resource mobilization initiatives, including by enhancing the efficiency of tax regimes and curbing illicit financial flows"

**Key messages from the Ninth
session of the Africa Regional
Forum on Sustainable Development**



GCSAYN Representative

Prepared by: Mr Mahamat Saleh Moussa, Country Coordinator GCSAYN CHAD

Reviewed by: Ms. Pascaline YAO, Country Lead GCSAYN CHAD

Approved by: Mr Ntiokam Divine, Founder and Executive Director ,GCSAYN

Approval date : 10/03/2023



**Contact us for
further
inquiries**

**www.csaynglobal.org
info@csaynglobal.org
+(237) 673 359 810**