

**AFRICA AND EUROPE:  
CLIMATE SECURITY  
FOR THE FUTURE –  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL ACTIONS**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



## Agenda

The 12th Africa Day International Conference is hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, in collaboration with the Bled Strategic Forum, the European Commission and the Chatham House, and under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Slovenia. This high-level annual event seeks to improve policy outcomes for citizens in Europe and Africa as a result of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two regions, while strengthening bilateral relations between Slovenia and Africa.

Climate change poses one of the most serious threats to global security. No individual country or region can face it alone; strong international partnerships are crucial. Analysing risk and taking action can help towards a number of SDGs and a more secure and sustainable future. Addressing climate security is essential for the well-being and future stability of communities and countries around the world, and for the global community as a whole.

This conference will offer a platform for further inter-regional exchange and cooperation to contribute to progress on climate security. It will bring together decision-makers and experts from Europe, Africa and around the world to identify the challenges and discuss the steps to be taken.

### 20 April

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07.45 Registration

08.30 **Opening of the Africa Day Conference** (*Grandis Hall*)

Short cultural programme

#### **Opening speeches**

**H.E. Ms Tanja Fajon**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

**Ms Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner (*pre-recorded video*)

08.45 **Leaders' panel** (*Grandis Hall*)

**H.E. Ms Tanja Fajon**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

**H.E. Mr Rui Alberto de Figueiredo Soares**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration, Republic of Cabo Verde

**H.E. Mr Dhoahir Dhoulkamal**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Union of the Comoros

**H.E. Mr Vincent Biruta**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda

**H.E. Ms Nancy Tembo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Malawi

**Mr John F. Kerry**, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, United States of America (*pre-recorded video*)

Chair: **Mr Seku Mady Condé**, journalist and TV presenter, RTV Slovenija

10.00 Coffee break

10.45 **Panel: UNSC and climate security – what next?** (*Grandis Hall*)

*Africa's priorities for multilateral action on climate security*

**Mr Dhesigen Naidoo**, Head of the African Climate Risk and Human Security Programme, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

*The role of the UNSC in climate change action*

**Ms Simone Borg**, Ambassador for Climate Action, Malta

*Driving Security Council debate on climate security*

**Dr Sinead Walsh**, Climate Director, Development Cooperation and Africa Division Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

*Obstacles to effective UNSC engagement on climate change*

**Ms Hafsa Maalim**, Associate Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Chair: **Ms Janani Vivekananda**, Head of Programme, Climate Diplomacy and Security, Adelphi

12.00 **Address** (*Grandis Hall*)

**H.E. Ms Nataša Pirc Musar, PhD**, President of the Republic of Slovenia

12.10 Lunch

14.00 **Address** (*Grandis Hall*)

**H.E. Ms Urška Klakočar Zupančič**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

14.10 **Parallel Panels:**

**1) Inclusive climate security responses: The role of women, civil society and youth** (*Grandis Hall*)

*African civil society leadership in climate action*

**Dr Evans Kituyi**, Senior Associate, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

*Gender-sensitive climate security*

**H.E. Ms Safiya Ahmad Nuhu, PhD**, Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria

*Power asymmetries in climate change security*

**Ms Ana Kalin**, Policy maker and analyst, Forum for Equitable Development

*Role of youth and civil society in the EU-Africa and EU-OACPS partnerships*

**Mr Domenico Rosa**, Head, Strategic Partnerships with Africa and OACPS Unit, and Head, Post Cotonou Working Group, European Commission

Chair: **Mr Patrick Mpedzisi**, Global Diplomacy Lab

**2) Delivering effective multilateral action: Climate security at COP28** (*Splendens Hall, only in English*)

*Reflecting on African engagement at COP27 and priorities for COP28*

**Professor Chukwumerije Okereke**, Director, Centre for Climate Change and Development, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike; Visiting Professor, University of Reading and Oxford

*Towards the systematic inclusion of climate security issues at COP*

**Ms Tina Kobilšek**, Lead negotiator for climate change, Head of Climate Change and Biotechnology Division, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, Republic of Slovenia

*Ensuring inclusive dialogue at COP*

**Dr Omnia El Omrani**, Youth Envoy to the COP27 President (*online*)

*Addressing barriers to Europe-Africa climate negotiations*

**Ms Elisabeth Hege**, Senior Research Fellow, Governance and Financing for Sustainable Development, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

*Attracting sustainable climate financing in Africa*

**Mr Ousmane Fall Sarr**, Coordinator, West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance

Chair: **Mr Christopher Vandome**, Senior Research Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

15.10 Free time

20.00 Open air concert Wiyaala & The Yaga Yaga Band, Novi trg, Ljubljana

## **21 April**

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09.00 **Keynote addresses: Linking resilient economies and climate security** (*Grandis Hall*)

**Mr Matjaž Han**, Minister of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, Republic of Slovenia

**Mr Uroš Brežan**, Minister for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

**H.E. Mr Vincent Biruta**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda

09.30 **Parallel Panels**

**1) Smart business solutions for ecological security** (*Grandis Hall*)

*Presentation of Vesolje.si: Space Technologies for ecological solutions*

**Mr Tomaž Rodič**, CEO, Slovenian Centre of Excellence for Space Sciences and Technologies

*Water monitoring and agriculture*

**Mr Matjaž Ivačič**, GeoCodis, Slovenia

Circularity of textile/plastic waste

**Professor Dr Aleksandra Lobnik**, CEO, Institute for Environmental Protection and Sensors, Slovenia

Blue Economy for Ecological Security

**Mr Mounir Ghribi, PhD**, Director of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Blue Economy, EMUNI

Securing energy infrastructure investment

**Ms Linda Mabhena-Olagunju**, Founder and CEO, DLO Energy Resources Group

Chair: **Ms Elizabeth Maloba**, Policy Leader Fellow, European University Institute

**2) Enhancing nature-based solutions and local action for climate resilience** (*Splendens Hall, only in English*)

Enhancing nature-based solutions for climate resilience

**Mr Uroš Brežan**, Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

Water provision for sustainable livelihoods

**Dr Ayan Mahamoud**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Responding to climate security challenges in the Lake Chad Basin and Sahel

**Ms Adenike Oladosu**, Agricultural Economist and Climate Justice Activist

The role of sustainable forests in climate resilience

**Mr Rene Ngongo**, Rapporteur, Environment and Natural Resources Commission, Economic & Social Council, Democratic Republic of Congo

Climate for Peace project – strengthening local action

**Ms Christina Wegelein**, Head of Climate and Security Division, German Federal Foreign Office

Chair: **Mr Bob Dewar CMG**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

10.45 Coffee break

11.00 **Parallel Panels:**

**1) Slovenia-Africa Business Cooperation – business clubs presentations** (*Grandis Hall*)

**Mr Gilbert Mežnar**, Slovenia-Ghana Business Club

**Mr Domen Mikša**, Slovenia-Tunisia Business Club

**Mr Fred Uduma**, Slovenia-Nigeria Business Club

**Mr Marius Mensah**, Slovenia-Ivory Coast Business Club

**Ms Nadia Cigale**, Slovenia-Cameroon Business Club

Chair: **Mr Rok Tomšič**, Head of Department for bilateral economic cooperation, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

**2) Innovative solutions for sustainable development** (*Splendens Hall, only in English*)

**Prof Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry**, President EMUNI

**Mr Robert Blatnik**, MSc, CLP, Jožef Stefan Institute

**Ms Jihene Nouairi**, young innovator

**Ms Patricija Ham**, young innovator

**Ms Laila Mahmoud**, young innovator

Chair: **Mr Jure Tomc**, JT Business Development Ltd.

*Possibility of B2B meetings all the morning*

**12.00 Concluding remarks** (*Grandis Hall*)

**Mr Samuel Žbogar**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia

**Ms Tighisti Amare**, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Departure – Business field trip

15.00 Iskraemeco Company – Kranj

17.30 Visit to Radovljica – welcome by the Mayor, tasting of honey products, traditional dance performance

19.00 – 21.00 Reception (Lectar Restaurant – Radovljica)

*--- The Conference will be streamed online and recorded. ---*

*Back-to-back event*

***Climate Change, Peace and Security Training*** (*registrations closed*)

*24 - 26 April 2023*

*Organised by the Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, this three-day training will provide an insight into different aspects of the climate-security nexus. The participants will be able to understand and analyse climate-related security risks and be better prepared to contribute to crisis prevention and sustaining peace.*