



EMEA WEBINARS

# HOW IS THE GREEN TRANSITION FINANCED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA?

Thursday 04 November, 2021 15:00- 16:50 CET

**Moderator:**

Prof. Rym Ayadi,  
President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists  
Association (EMEA) and Professor The Bayes  
Business School (Former CASS)

**Discussants:**

Dr. Meggan Spires  
Director of Climate Change, Energy & Resilience,  
ICLEI Africa.

Hana Lakhdar Ghaza  
Director General, Positive Agenda Advisory.

**Speakers:**

Dr. Cynthia Echave  
Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher,  
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association,  
(EMEA)

Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke  
Environment and Development, University of  
Reading.

Kwame Sarpong Barnieh  
Partner KPMG Ghana

Prof Ing Martin Lukac  
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences,  
University of Reading.



**Positive Agenda**  
Advisory

The recent report AR6 The Physical Science Basis, presented by the Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August 2021, provides new evidence on global warming and the urgency of reducing CO2 emissions in the coming decades. Failure to do so will make many regions of the planet uninhabitable for humans and other living species. According to the report, there is still time to avoid the highest temperature increase and impact scenario, but this will depend on several factors such as political will, the effectiveness of emission mitigation measures and access to sufficient funding to accelerate the implementation of actions. The Mediterranean region and the African continent are among the most affected areas in the world. According to the IPCC Report and regional factsheet, the Mediterranean and Africa will be more affected by rising surface temperatures and sea level rise, vulnerability to drought, and water scarcity. This scenario will have a severe impact on agriculture and forestry not only due the rise of aridity but also with a heightened risk of fire in protected terrestrial areas. On the other hand, cities will intensify human-induced warming locally, causing more frequent heatwaves and alteration to precipitation, increasing the risk of runoff intensity.

As Africa tends towards accelerated urban growth, urbanisation processes need to be accompanied by sustainability criteria, resilience strategies, sustainable infrastructure and targeted financing mechanisms to guide the development of cities and towns that is adapted to climate change and causes the least negative impact on the environment. Therefore, land use management and infrastructure provision based on natural solutions become an essential aspect in the development of emerging urban contexts in the Mediterranean and Africa. Integrated management of water cycles, renewable energies, and agroforestry is required for achieving more efficient urban metabolism and resilience to climate change. From green infrastructure at an urban level to protected areas on a territorial scale, vegetation and agroforestry should acquire an appropriate value in planning and climate policies.

According to the report co-authored by Positive Agenda: "Post-COVID-19 Recovery in Africa: Recommendations for policy actors", the main investment priorities in the coming decades will be aimed at: linking clean energy with Post-Covid-19 recovery efforts, climate-smart agriculture, green transportation, quality data to drive the digital economy and social protection tackling inequality, green industrial policy, environmental taxes and sustainable tourism. The report also provides recommendations for enhancing investment on green transition.

This Webinar is co-organised by EMEA and Positive Agenda, with the aim of discussing the investment and financing priorities needed for a proper green transition in African countries, considering both climate change and post-COVID economic recovery constraints.



## Moderator:



**Prof. Rym Ayadi**  
President and Founder  
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Academic member and Chair (2018-20) of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA-BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

## Panellist



**Dr. Cynthia Echave**  
Project Coordinator and Senior Researcher,  
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Cynthia Echave is an architect & urban planner specialized in urban ecology. She possesses a Doctor degree in Energy and Environment by Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Its professional career is characterized by an active participation in strategic projects under an ecosystemic criterion. Her professional profile could be defined close to R&D, working on the development of creative and innovative tools, methodologies, and strategies for urban sustainability. Knowledge transfer comes through its application at integral projects in coordination with local authorities, mainly related to sustainable urban mobility, public space and urban liveability, green infrastructure, energy and urban metabolism. She is Senior Researcher at EMEA in charge of capitalisation projects involving research around sustainability, energy transition and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean and Africa.



**Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke**  
Environment and Development, University of  
Reading.

Professor Chukwumerije Okereke is the Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Development at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike and a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Reading and Oxford, UK respectively. He is a globally recognized leading scholar on global climate governance and international development with expertise in climate justice, national green growth transition in Africa, climate adaptation and business climate strategies.

Professor Okereke was previously the Co-Director of the Center for Climate and Justice and Co-Director of the Reading University Leverhulme Doctoral Scholarship Programme. He was also Director of the Center for Climate Change and Development at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford. Over the last 20 years, Professor Okereke has maintained an extensive high-impact engagement with national governments, businesses, and NGOs in Africa and led on several high-profile international projects on climate change policy, mainstreaming, and green economy transition in Africa including the UNDP funded Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) commissioned by the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), the Analysis of the Adaptation Components in Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) commissioned by the African Development Bank and and the Rwandan Green Growth and Climate Resilience Project, which was the first-ever national low-carbon plan in Africa.

Professor Okereke is the Coordinating Lead Author of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report. He has served as Lead Author on other major global scientific assessment projects including the IPCC Special Report on 1.5degree global warming and the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC; the United Nations Environment Programme's Urbanization, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services Assessment. Professor Okereke is a member of the Steering Committee of the Earths Systems Governance Project and a leading member of the Global Earth Commission's Safe and Just Transformation Working Group. Professor Okereke is a member of the editorial board of several highly reputed journals in the field including, Global Environmental Politics, Business and Sustainable Development, Earth Systems Governance, and International Studies Review.

Professor Okereke has published widely in the field, given a countless number of keynote speeches, and been interviewed by leading media houses in the world including BBC News, BBC World Services, France24, China Global Television Network, Channels TV, AriseTV, and several others.



## Kwame Sarpong Barnieh

Partner KPMG Ghana

Kwame is a Partner for Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance. He has over 18 years' experience working across various dimensions of Internal Audit (IA), Risk Assessment & Management, Governance, and Compliance Review. He works with clients in diverse industries to understand their business environments to generate sustainable returns through the assessment, design and implementation of Enterprise Risk Management, Governance, Compliance, Internal Controls and Internal Audit frameworks. As a lead facilitator for KPMG's external training programmes, he designs and facilitates training programmes across various disciplines. Kwame is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Global Management Accountant.



## Prof Ing Martin Lukac

Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, University of Reading

Martin Lukac is a Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Reading and holds a visiting position at the University of Life Sciences in Prague. He has more than 20 years of experience in research on plant physiology and ecology, genetic and functional diversity and climate change. He specialises in the study of terrestrial ecosystem productivity, carbon cycling and ecosystems storage, climate change mitigation, and adaptation, with a specific focus on forestry and agroforestry. He has published more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, numerous book, and book chapters. He has participated in and led a number of national and international research and science communication projects. Currently, he supervises six doctorate students undertaking research on topics ranging from agroforestry to forestry, soil science, crop modelling and organic farming.

## Discussant:



## Dr. Meggan Spires

Director of Climate Change, Energy & Resilience, ICLEI Africa

Dr Meggan Spires, is ICLEI Africa's Director of Climate Change, Energy and Resilience. The unit she manages serves ICLEI Africa's 300+ network cities in over 26 African countries, in terms of supporting their journeys towards climate resilience. Meggan and team manage a suite of multi-year, multi-country programmes and projects in fields such as energy access, climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation. The work involves capacity building, policy development, on-the-ground implementation, and unlocking climate finance at the city-scale. Meggan is currently the Principle Investigator for a number of cutting-edge research into development programmes on the continent, and sits on a number of international policy advisory boards. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Rhodes University, and prior to joining ICLEI Africa worked as a Climate Protection Scientist at eThekweni Municipality (Durban), where she was involved in the development Durban's climate change programme.



## Hana Lakhdar Ghazal

Director General, Positive Agenda Advisory.

Hana is the Managing Director of Positive Agenda Advisory (P2A). P2A is an advocacy, business development and executive strategy firm, aiming at helping their clients in their growth strategy. Over the last 15 years, Hana has developed good knowledge in consultancy, business development, public policy implementation and expertise in strategy, organization and transformation. She started her career in 2006 in international development. She moved to Morocco in 2010 and has been working since as a public servant and then as a consultant for the private and public sector, including for international institutions such as The World Bank. She also worked during the last 3 years with AfDB as a consultant for the setting up a delivery unit for the Head of Government Office in Morocco and with MCA-Morocco on supporting the Secondary Education Project in Morocco, as well as with J-PAL MIT in setting up and running a Public Policy Impact Evaluation Lab in Morocco. Hana holds an MSc. in Management from ESCP Europe and a Master in Morocco History from Université Paris 1-Panthéon La Sorbonne.

SAVE THE DATE: Next EMEA webinar taking place on "Brain Health" 18 November at 15:00 CET

