

PROGRAM

AFRI- CLIMETHICS

June 24, 2022

24 June

- 11:05** **Welcome:** *Dr Dennis Agelebe*
11:10 **Keynote speech:** *Prof Kirk Junker, Director Environmental Law Center, Chair, Center for US Law, Uni-Köln*
Moderator: *Mr Solomon Ezike, Consultant, the World Bank, Washington DC, USA*

First Panel

- 11:10** How Can Least Developed African States Pursue Economic
11:25 Development without Compromising their Legal and Ethical Obligations Towards the Earth?
Dr Bayo Adaralegbe, Adjunct Professor, Center for Petroleum, Energy, Economics and Law, the University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 11:25** Leverage free-trade agreement to combat climate change in Africa:
11:40 Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area
Dr Sama Semie, Assistant Professor of Law, Lakehead University Canada
- 11:40** *Prof. Omphemetse S. Sibanda, Executive Dean, Faculty of*
11:55 *Management and Law at the University of Limpopo*
- 11:55** Questions and Answer Session
12:10
- 12:10** Coffee Break
12:20
- 12:20** **Goodwill message:** *Dr Thilo Zimmermann, Manager, SDG Department,*
12:25 *International Office, Uni-Köln*

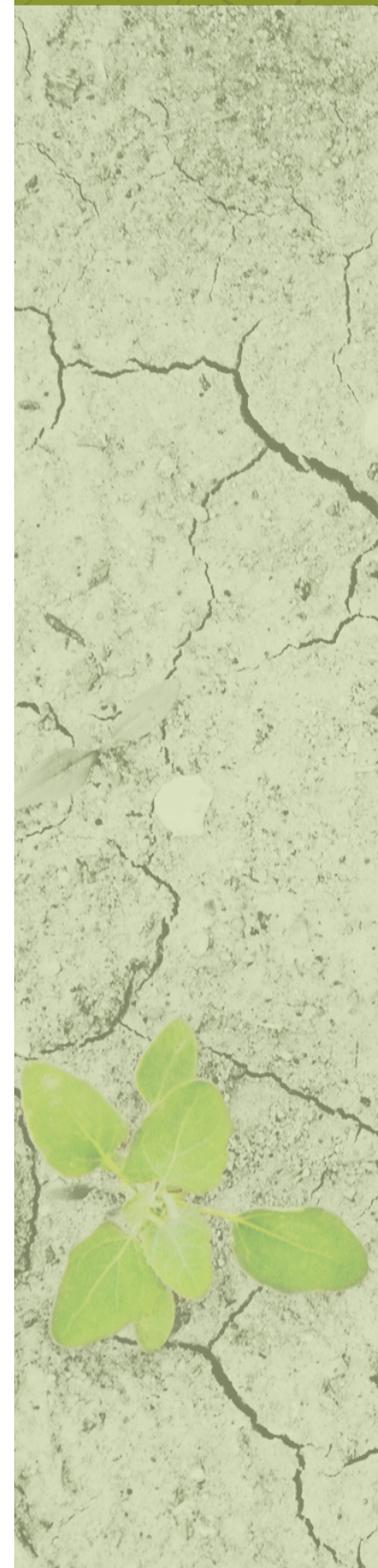
Second Panel

- 12:25** Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change in
12:40 Ethiopia
Dr Gemedo Dalle, Associate Professor, Addis Ababa University and Former Minister for Environment, Federal Republic of Ethiopia
- 12:40** Catalysing Green Tourism Through the African Continental Free Trade
12:55 Area Agreement
Prof. Collins Odote, Director, Center for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 12:55** Implementing climate ethics standards in the African Continental
13:10 Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement: progressive and precautionary lessons from the European Union
Dr Deborah O. Ayodele-Olajire, Center for Petroleum, Energy, Economics and Law, the University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 13:10** The Efficacy of Climate Change Mitigation Strategies for Enhancing
13:20 Trade and Economic Development in Kenya
Ms Aloyce Ndege, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi
- 13:20** Question time and Discussion Session
13:40
- 13:40** Closing Remarks
13:45

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Ms A. Ndege

The Efficacy of Climate Change Mitigation Strategies for Enhancing Trade and Economic Development in Kenya.

Trade and economic development have brought considerable progress in recent decades. Still, sub-Saharan Africa's resilience and coping mechanisms remain limited, reflecting structural factors restricting countries' ability to respond to and recover from shocks. In particular, heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture increases humanitarian, social, and macroeconomic vulnerabilities to rising temperatures and extreme weather shocks, which most heavily affect the poorest segments of the region's rapidly growing population. Adapting to climate change is critical to safeguarding and further advancing hard-earned improvements in incomes, trade, education and health outcomes across sub-Saharan Africa over the past three decades. However, adaptation will be incredibly challenging given countries' limited capacity and financial resources. Several studies have shown the importance of advancing economic development in raising resilience to climate change and improving coping mechanisms. Policy recommendations range from building buffers (such as international reserves) and social safety nets to strengthening institutions and frameworks that foster structural transformation. However, implementing these recommendations while managing competing development needs is beyond the region's human and financial capacity.

In some cases, additional challenges arise from political uncertainty and security issues. Given these constraints, the main question is which reform areas should sub-Saharan African policymakers prioritise? This is the subject of mounting policy debates across the region, especially with youths demanding that policymakers take immediate action. This paper examines policies and structural areas that could help the region make strides in adapting to climate change by building resilience and improving coping mechanisms.

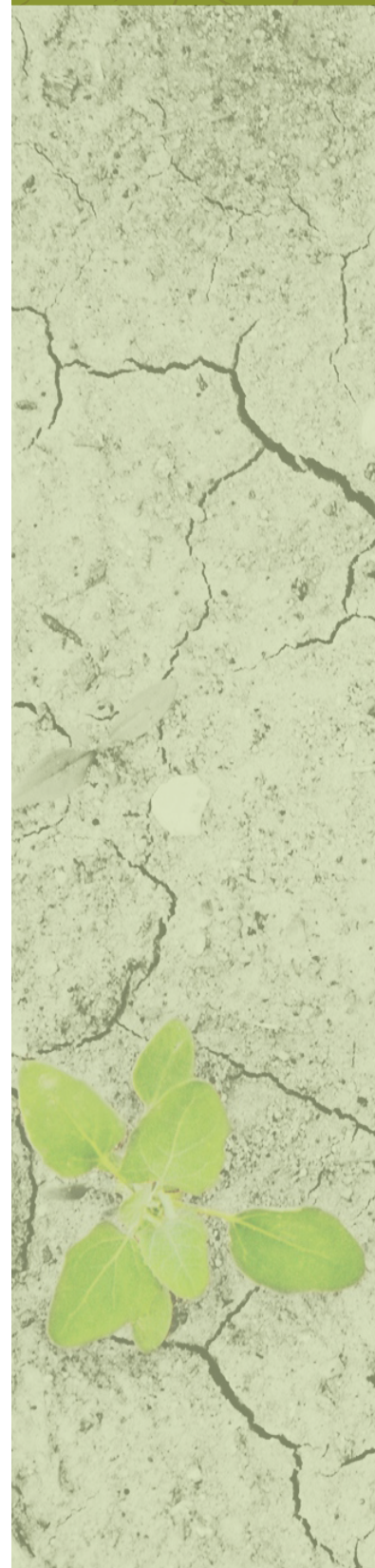
Dr Sama Semie

Leverage free-trade agreement to combat climate change in Africa: Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area

African states struggle to lift millions of Africans out of extreme poverty and boost their incomes through economic growth. At the same time, these countries are facing some of the worst impacts of climate change as global warming, rising sea level, floods, and desertification threaten their very existence. Amidst these challenges, African states have negotiated a free trade agreement known as the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area to facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services. Many international trade regimes and climate change agreements recognise the global climate-trade conflict. Some have included clauses to ensure they do not hinder climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This paper aims to support state and non-state actors in leveraging free trade agreements for climate change mitigation and

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adaptation. While trade and climate change objectives may conflict, the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area could be enlisted as an economic tool to reduce poverty, broaden economic inclusion, and avoid worsening climate change threats in Africa. Part II provides background on Africa's experience with climate change. Part III explores the trade-climate change nexus and questions whether both regimes must characteristically conflict. Part IV analyses the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and how it seems to strengthen or undercut the global climate agenda. The paper concludes with a climate-friendly path forward for the Agreement as parties deposit their instruments of ratification.

Dr Deborah O. Ayodele-Olajire and Ms Olaitan O. Olajire

Implementing climate ethics standards in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement: progressive and precautionary lessons from the European Union

Pursuing economic development is arguably the bane of the global climate crisis. Moral considerations have arisen in the form of 'ecological debt' expectations of the global north and an avoidance of the 'treadmill of accumulation' by the global south. Despite the differences in contributions to and benefits from past emissions, a global responsibility remains to stem global temperature increases and build resilience. In Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement was introduced by the African Union (AU) to promote economic development across the continent. In the preamble to AfCFTA's Protocol on Trade in Services, member states of the AU agreed to recognise „the right of State Parties to regulate...national policy objectives...without compromising consumer protection, environmental protection, and overall sustainable development" (p.31). However, the Agreement does not provide an overarching framework for member states to key into to prevent cross purposes, nor are there known structures or policies to ensure that member states protect the environment. This paper reviews the implementation of climate ethics standards within the European Union (EU) - a common union similar to the African Union. We assess the progressive and non-progressive strategies being considered and/or employed in promoting climate ethics within the EU and propose ways to implement climate ethics standards within AfCFTA; standards, which member states can adopt given the social, political, and economic conditions and cultural systems that exist across the continent.

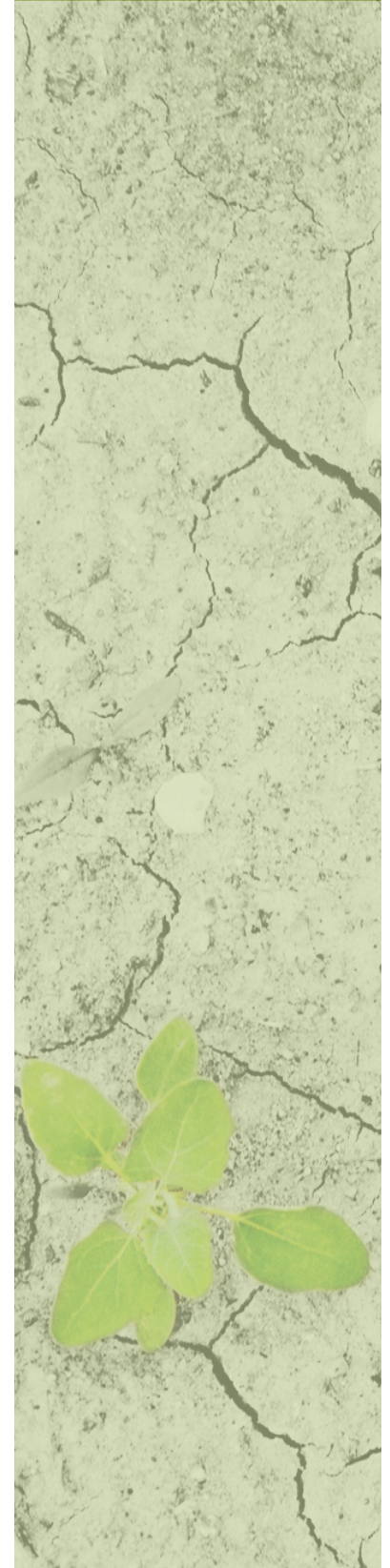
Dr Gemedo Dalle

Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change in Ethiopia

Climate change has been costing lives and livelihoods in Ethiopia as floods and droughts have become frequent in the continent. A recent report from the Oromia Regional State shows that there were 1.3 million deaths in livestock worth 26 billion ETB due to drought in

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2021/2022. The report further pointed out that 14 million animals have been affected by the drought in eight zones of the region, out of which 2 million are unable to move without support. As most families in the pastoral areas depend on animal products (e.g. milk), the economic impact of this drought is significant. Furthermore, climate change has already affected coffee production in the Country. It is worth mentioning that coffee is one of the major export commodities. Studies showed that the production and productivity of coffee are negatively affected by climate change. The productivity of coffee has been declining and is predicted to decrease substantially. It has been documented those suitable areas for Arabica coffee cultivation will diminish by 60% by 2050.

In other words, the livelihood of smallholder producers and the economy of coffee growing countries such as Ethiopia are at risk and under a vicious circle of poverty. Furthermore, climate change has contributed to the shift in species' ecological ranges and promoting the invasion of invasive alien species. For example, *Prosopis juliflora* has invaded a significant land area in the Afar region of Ethiopia, causing significant negative impacts on the livelihoods of pastoral communities. A recent study showed that 94.8% of the Country was non-suitable for *Prosopis juliflora* establishment and invasion under the current climatic scenario, while 0.4% (4.56 million ha) was highly suitable. However, in 2050, a highly suitable area for *P. juliflora* is expected to increase by 63.6%, while a moderately suitable area is projected to increase by 42.9% under the RCP8.5 climate scenario. It has to be noted that the continued expansion of this species leads to significant environmental and economic damage, thereby threatening the local biodiversity and livelihood of the pastoralist community. To minimise these negative impacts of climate change, building adaptive capacity to the changing climate and coordinated actions in restoring degraded rangelands and forest landscapes are highly recommended.

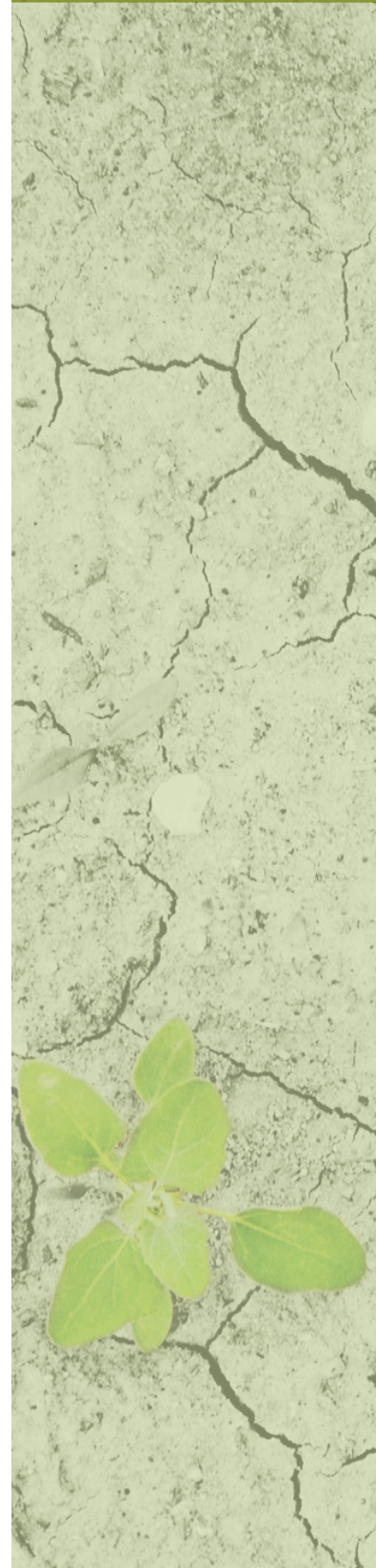
Dr Bayo Adaralegbe

How Can Least Developed African States Pursue Economic Development without Compromising their Legal and Ethical Obligations Towards the Earth?

The Industrial Revolution that started 200 years ago was built on an economic theory that promoted cross-border trade and investment. The European Community Treaty of the late 1950s sought to create a single European market that grew out of this model. With its disproportionate share of Least Developed Countries, Africa seeks to pattern its economic development after Europe, North America, and Asia. The recent African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Treaty creates a single African market for trade in goods and services. Unfortunately, the industrial revolution that inspired this economic model has been determined to cause the Earth's problem. Human activities from electricity production, transportation and industrialisation have contributed to the greenhouse gas emissions that have produced imbalances in the Earth's energy. Also, as against sheer economic growth, sustainable development was never in the equation when the industrial revolution began. Several Multilateral

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Conventions and collaborations exist between countries in a belated quest to heal the Earth. African states are not just part of these efforts; an increasing number of them are passing Climate Change Laws, including Nigeria's most recent. This research intends to explore the balance for geologically favoured African States between the objective for economic development through the AfCFTA and the exploitation of their abundant natural resources without compromising their legal and ethical obligations to mitigate GHG emissions.

Prof. Dr Omphemetse S. Sibanda

Finding Solutions for Climate Change in Africa: Mitigating Future Climate Change Crises Through Curriculum to Teach Climate Ethics at Universities in Africa

The continuing severe droughts across the African continent, famine, drought, and devastating floods recently experienced in the continent are evidence of the impacts of climate change globally. Notable has been the 2019/2020/2021 East African, the Horn of Africa, and Southern Africa locust plagues, the cyclones in Mozambique, the drought in South Africa, and the 2022 floods in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa that left scores of people dead and infrastructure brought to the muddy ground. Solutions to climate change in Africa can be found in the curriculum to teach climate ethics at universities in Africa. Societies need to deal with specific ethical issues related to climate change, including but not limited to: What makes climate change an ethical issue? What is the link between climate ethics and sustainable development? What are the distribution of burdens and benefits, emission rights, and international justice? To what extent can African concepts of uBuntu and Ukama become building blocks for environmental ethics and be the pivot to challenge Africa's ability and commitment to help combat climate change? Can climate ethics spur individuals to prevent practices and activities fuelling climate change? This presentation, in the main, will argue that, as in other societal challenges, education plays an important role in climate change issues.

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