



## African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change

---

### [AGN Press Release: AGN National Focal Points Virtual Meeting](#)

---

**Mr Tanguy GAHOUMA-BEKALE** the Chair of the African Group of Negotiator on Climate Change of the UNFCCC (AGN) on **14<sup>th</sup> of July 2020** conveyed a virtual meeting with the National Focal Points of African countries.

Africa as much as other continents is currently living a very challenging period with multiple crises due to the spread of the COVID-19 which has led to the postponement of the SB52 and COP 26.

This global crisis needs immediate action in order to save lives and mitigate impacts on economies. Countries around the world have taken measures to ensure the pandemic is under control and to stop the spread of the virus. Countries, however, also need to **consider climate change** in their **COVID-19 recovery process**.

The same level of enthusiasm and resources put into the **fight against COVID-19** must also be channelled to address climate change.

The Chair of the AGN said: "***We will make use of the available opportunities to continue the discussions on climate change and to maintain the momentum towards addressing the adverse impacts of climate change.***"

The AGN Chair plans to have constant engagement with African national focal points until the end of this year. This will provide an opportunity to share updates on UNFCCC related meetings and the AGN's views and proposals to represent **African needs and priorities**.

The postponement of **SB 52 and COP26** does not mean the postponement of **climate change actions** and more than ever, we need to **work together to implement the Paris Agreement**, and these meetings provide an excellent opportunity where we can discuss informally between us on the way forward.

The Chair took this opportunity to present to the NFPs the **summary of AGN activities** for the period between January to June 2020, which captured all meetings (physical and virtual), convened or attended by AGN. The report provided highlights on the achievements, progress as well as on AGN Priorities and way forward for the remainder of the year.

As well as that, responding to the invitation of Chair, The **SBSTA chair** spoke on the implication on the negotiations due to COVID-19 and the postponement of SB52 & COP26. He shared his concern on the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the feasibility of holding sessions in 2021 could remain uncertain.

Implication on the negotiations due to COVID-19 and the postponement of SB52 & COP26 as well as the **status report on GCF** operations under COVID-19 circumstances were discussed with the LCs.

Some of the Key Achievements and Progress of the AGN, apart from attending most virtual events are:

- ✚ Developed the **AGN Roadmap for COP26**: The roadmap provides a detailed work plan from the thematic groups on how to **approach COP26 and to highlight critical challenges posed by the COVID-19** pandemic.
- ✚ Developed an **AGN NDCs Guideline**: The main objective of the guideline is to provide information for all African countries in the preparations and implementation of their NDCs in accordance with the CAHOSCC and AMCEN decisions
- ✚ **Submissions by the Republic of Gabon on behalf of the AGN**: Five submissions have been made on behalf of the African Group. These include the submission on research and systematic observation, submission on climate empowerment, submission on the Koronivia joint work on Agriculture, submission on oceans and climate change and submission on the definition of climate finance.
- ✚ AGN inputs to the **SCF draft zero outlines** of needs report

The AGN Chair consequently highlighted the key priorities for the remainder of the year, and the way forward for the group is:

- ✚ To produce **technical papers**
- ✚ Support African countries to **update and revise NDCs**
- ✚ Call for the **clarity of financial commitments** by developed countries
- ✚ **Sustainable Recovery** from Covid-19
- ✚ Prepare for **SB52, COP26**, and Conversation on **COP27**

The AGN Chair concluded by stating, *"All events for 2020 have been postponed for 2021, and therefore we need to be unified, ready and prepared. Despite the difficulty, we need to **participate as much as we can in the discussion**; maintain these regular online meetings for the future, and we need to use this time to **build our common positions and strategy on the implications of COVID-19.**"*

---

[www.africangroupofnegotiators.org](http://www.africangroupofnegotiators.org)



@AGNChairUNFCCC



[www.facebook.com/AGNChairUNFCCC](https://www.facebook.com/AGNChairUNFCCC)