Title of Panel: Adapting through knowledge: Building capacity to address climate adaptation finance needs through education

Summary of panel:

Climate change poses significant challenges globally, particularly for developing countries. Effective adaptation strategies are crucial to mitigate these impacts and build resilient communities. This panel seeks to explore **the intersection of education, finance and capacity building** in the context of climate adaptation and thereby emphasise **the role of education** in strengthening capacity for climate finance. It will examine how educational initiatives like training, academic programs and fellowship programmes equip stakeholders with the technical skills and institutional readiness required to access and manage adaptation funds effectively. Integrating financial and non-financial considerations, the discussion will provide a holistic perspective on how education can enhance capacity on an individual, institutional and even systemic level by bridging the gap between theory and practice, in areas such as governance, resource mobilisation, and operational practices.

By bringing together experts in finance, policy, education, and climate science, the panel will foster interdisciplinary dialogue and provide actionable recommendations. Ultimately, it seeks to inform policy frameworks, inspire innovative financing solutions, and empower stakeholders to build climate-resilient communities.

INDIVIDUAL PANELLIST CONTRIBUTION

Moderator Details

Full Name: Rui Lopes
Organisation: UNIDO

Panellists 1
Full Name: Santiago Alba-Corral
Organisation: IDRC
Bio: As vice-president of Programs and Partnerships, Santiago Alba-Corral provides leadership, vision and strategic direction for IDRC's research programming and partnerships. He oversees the development and implementation of program strategies and priorities in a manner that encourages sound stewardship of public funds and resources and contributes to the effective achievement of IDRC's Strategy 2030.

Opening Remarks on: Financing capacity building programs in complex environments and the importance of measuring their impact

<u>Panellist 2</u>

Full Name: Dr Joanes Atela
Organisation: African Research Impact Network
Bio: Dr. Atela is the Executive Director of ARIN with over 15 years of expertise in climate policy, research, and governance. He has advised the African Union, led major climate programs, and contributed to global research. A PhD holder from Leeds, he shapes Africa's climate innovation and transparency efforts.

Title of Presentation 2: Scaling Up Public and Private Sector NDC Financing in Africa

Panellist 2 Contribution:

Introduction: NDCs are central to Africa's climate commitments, yet financing remains a major hurdle. This study examines public and private sector contributions, with a focus on adaptation funding. By identifying key barriers and analyzing country-specific financing landscapes, the research highlights opportunities to enhance financial mobilization for NDC implementation.

Objectives: The study aims to assess the current state of NDC financing in Africa by examining both public and private sector contributions, with a focus on adaptation measures and other means of implementation. Comparative profiles will be created for selected countries (Senegal, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Malawi, and Mauritius) to highlight diverse financing landscapes, best practices, and inherent challenges. Additionally, the research seeks to identify key barriers to effective NDC financing – including regulatory, institutional, and market-based hurdles that limit innovative financing and private sector engagement.

Methodology: Using a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates quantitative techniques (econometric modeling, trend projections) with qualitative methods (desk research, case studies, stakeholder interviews, and focus group discussions) to provide a comprehensive view of financing flows and funding gaps while addressing ethical considerations.

Preliminary Findings: Early analysis reveals a significant shortfall between the projected NDC financing needs and the funds currently mobilized. Public financing dominates, while private sector contributions remain relatively low, partly due to regulatory inefficiencies and market risks. Initial evidence indicates that countries with robust policy frameworks and targeted fiscal incentives tend to secure more diversified funding. These findings underscore the urgency of enhancing both public and private investment channels to meet Africa's NDC commitments.

Panellist 3

Full Name: Dr. Karishma Ansaram
Organisation: University of Edinburgh, UK
Bio: Dr Karishma Ansaram is Lecturer in Climate Finance and Investment with University of Edinburgh with a research focus on enhancing access to climate finance for the local community. She brings her experience on IFI reforms and climate finance policy through her former role with ICPH and UN High Level Champions.

Title of Presentation 3: Landscape of Climate Finance Educational and Capacity Building Programmes

Panellist 3 Contribution:

Introduction There is a pressing need to develop capacity building through education programmes focused on climate finance. This presentation explores the current educational and capacity building landscape on climate finance, identifying key characteristics and gaps within existing programs.

Objectives Identify practices and trends in educational and capacity building programmes on climate finance. Propose actionable recommendations to enhance the capacity-building efforts in climate finance education, ensuring they align with industry needs and global climate objectives and zooming into adaptation goals.

Methodology Conducting desk research on existing education programs and fellowships related to climate finance and clustering them by their characteristics will provide a comprehensive overview of the current educational landscape. This research will be complemented by additional interviews with educational institutions to gain deeper insights and validate the findings. Together, these methods will help create a robust framework for assessing the impact of education measures.

Findings The analysis of climate finance education programs reveals a significant gap between fee-based and free opportunities, with limited integration of adaptation goals. Programs vary widely in duration and depth, often lacking comprehensive coverage. To enhance capacity building, there is a need for more inclusive and accessible programs that align with adaptation strategies. Strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and industry can ensure programs meet real-world needs, fostering a skilled workforce equipped to tackle climate finance challenges.

Panellist 4

Full Name: Saskia Peters
Organisation: Saskia works at the Frankfurt School - UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance, where she designs, delivers and manages programmes and trainings on Climate and Sustainable Finance. With an academic background in International Relations, she has since specialised in Sustainability, Climate Policy and NDC Finance and contributes to the education of finance professionals through capacity building programmes.

Title of Presentation 4: How can the impacts of capacity building measures in education be measured? Case study: Two finance fellowships

Panellist 4 Contribution:

Introduction: FS builds on strong capacities in rolling out hybrid learning and capacity building programmes. Reflecting on tailored-made fellowships in 2017-2022, the impact question appears suitable to address.

Objectives: Set up framework, incl. typology of impact measurement indicators. This covers immediate and delayed impact measures, direct and indirect effect considerations, and simple vs multiplier effects. Lessons learned to inform future capacity building programmes.

Methodology: Development of a typology of impact measurement indicators. This framework will cover immediate and delayed impact measures, consider direct and indirect effects, and differentiate between simple and multiplier effects. This framework is applied to two Fellowships Frankfurt School designed and implemented on the behalf of the IDRC on adaptation and NDC finance. The assessment includes surveys and semi-structured interviews from the fellows, collecting qualitative data from fellows their perspectives on educational effects.

Findings: Findings indicate the necessity of documenting the situation prior, during and after the implementation of education measures to facilitate a more accurate impact analysis. The presented impact assessment framework provides a solid foundation for data collection to answer the question of what impact an intervention was able to achieve not only on the individual fellows, but also on their wider institutional and country environment. Collecting data at the beginning, during and after an intervention on the individual, institutional and systemic level will help attributing observed changes to the intervention and inform future interventions through lessons learned.