



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



The Lobito corridor: boosting climate action, food security, and regional trade

13th November 2025, 18:00-19:30

AquaPraça, Italian Pavilion

Organisers: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

Background and rationale

Africa faces an increasingly complex challenge: *feeding a rapidly growing population while grappling with the escalating impacts of climate change on its food systems*. The continent's food security is highly vulnerable to climate variability, which threatens agricultural productivity and food availability. **Integrating climate action into food systems is not only essential for survival but also an opportunity** to build resilience, improve productivity, and enhance economic growth.

In response to these challenges, global efforts to integrate climate and food systems have gained momentum. In 2023, 159 world leaders endorsed the **COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action**, calling for scaled-up financial and technical support for adaptation and resilience activities to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, fisherfolk and other food producers, and committing to speed up the integration of agriculture and food systems into the climate action agenda.

COP30 provides a unique opportunity to take stock on this momentum by bringing together policymakers, the private sector and other stakeholders to further embed climate-resilient strategies into Africa's economic growth and diverse food systems. This high-level event will discuss how to link climate action and sustainable food systems, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, innovative financing, trade, infrastructure and policy reforms that promote resilience in African communities. In particular, it will highlight the **emerging results of the continental programme funded by the Italian Development Cooperation and led by AUDA-NEPAD** and ECDPM, in support of the COP28 Leaders' Declaration implementation and to assist African countries and RECs in integrating climate and food systems policies and translating them into investment pipelines, with a focus on regional dimensions and infrastructure and trade corridors.

This event will **zoom into the Lobito Corridor**, as a real opportunity to catalyze investments targeting at once agricultural development, food security and climate resilience, while improving infrastructure and regional integration.

Key Objectives of the Side Event

1. **present emerging results on the Lobito Corridor from the AUDA-led project funded by Italy:** mapping of relevant policies, investment plans, and key stakeholders; identified investable pipelines to integrate climate action, food and nutrition security, and regional trade, such as agro-logistics platforms and the regional beans value chain.
2. **discuss other cases working to realize the full, transformative potential of the synergies between economic growth, climate action and resilient food systems** plans (such as the FAO's Global Roadmap 'Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5C threshold'): towards truly integrated and coherent policymaking and investment plans, moving beyond sectoral siloed approaches and linking infrastructure development with agricultural modernization, climate resilience, and increased intra-regional trade of food.
3. **broker public-private partnerships** around the African corridors and other climate & food integration programs, based on already ongoing initiatives and already committed financial resources
4. **mobilize support and encourage further financial commitments** from international donors, financial institutions, and governments to support the integration of climate action into Africa's economic growth and food security plans.

Programme

Moderator: Francesco Rampa, Head, Sustainable Food Systems, ECDPM

- Francesco Corvaro, Special Envoy for Climate, Italy
- Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, Director, Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Sustainability, NEPAD
- Catarino Fontes, DG, Agência Reguladora de Certificação de Carga e Logística de Angola
- Hélène Miaswekama Kiese, Directrice Générale de la Direction Générale des Corridors de Développement Industriel, DRC
- Julius Kamau, Director for Sustainability, Equity Bank Group
- Carl Jensen, CEO of Zambia Goodnatureagro
- David Laborde, Director of Economics Division of FAO