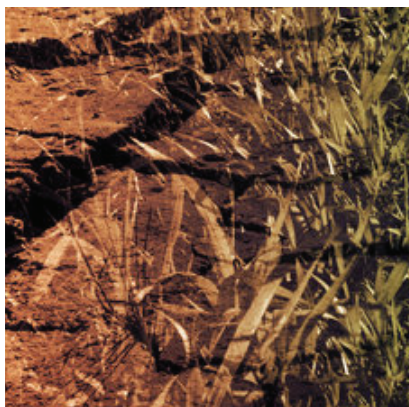


# UGANDA CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DIALOGUE



**Theme:** “Understanding Uganda’s  
Climate Change Bill 2020.”

**April, 2021**



**UGANDA CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DIALOGUE  
REPORT**

**Theme: Understanding Uganda's Climate Change**

**Bill 2020**

**APRIL 2021**

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## **List of Acronyms**

C.E.O:	Chief Executive Officer
COP 26:	The 26th UN Climate Change Conference
CSOs:	Civil Society Organization
EAC:	East African Community
EM:	Efficacy Methodology
IPOD:	Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue
NEMA:	National Environmental Management Authority
SOPs:	Standard Operating Procedures
The Bill:	Climate Change Bill 2020
UK:	United Kingdom
UNCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## **Executive Summary**

This report has details about the climate change bill 2020 policy dialogue done by Efficacy Methodology. It was held on 22nd April 2021 and hosted at Minister's Village Hotel, Ntinda, Kampala. The dialogue was under the theme "Understanding Uganda's Climate Change Bill 2020"

The overarching objective of the dialogue was to help the local communities and other key climate change actors to fully understand the bill and prepare for implementations once it is passed into law.

The dialogue focused on three topics; (i) The background, future and hope of the climate change bill. (ii) The role of the private sector/civil society in fighting climate change. (iii) How can climate change laws be a tool for fighting climate change? Perspectives from developed countries.

The occasion attracted high level of registration and engagements during the session. The majority of the attendees were female and the dialogue attracted stakeholders from the Academia, Governmental agencies, NGOs, CSOs and Students.

The key recommendations from the policy dialogue to Parliament, Government and other stakeholders are; (i) The climate change advisory board set out in the bill ought to be an independent body that will independently assess the efforts and activities on fighting climate change. (ii) Government holds in trust public resources thus they ought to desist from degrading the environment and destroying wetlands under the pretense of industrial investments. (iii) Fighting climate change requires an action-oriented approach and not politicizing the processes. (iv) The young people are encouraged to demand for environmental accountability, participate in environmental conservation and continuously plant a tree every month. (v) The world's commitment of \$100 billion funding for climate change must be met and COP26 can be used to reawaken the conversation.

The dialogue concluded that the need to adapt, mitigate and mainstream climate change into the local communities is critical in building sustainable, adaptive and resilient society.

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

In recent times, Uganda has experienced an increase in flooding, populace displacement, prolonged drought, rising water levels, depletion of the forest cover, locust invasion, increase in industrialization which has resulted into air pollution, high greenhouse gas emission among others. In the absence of the climate change law, Uganda has struggled to keep up with the Paris Accord. Currently, the country is still lagging in meeting its Nationally Determined Contribution target (NDC) of 22% greenhouse gas reduction.

This high-level public policy dialogue was premised on the policy blog 003/em/03/2021(Appendix 3) issued by Efficacy Methodology which was cognizant of many aspects affecting climate change adaptability and mitigation. The policy blog strongly advised three key issues; effective climate change mainstreaming to the grassroots need to translate the communications into the local languages, the need for strong leadership within the EAC for the region to make progress which is dependent on political will, private sector engagement and the global community commitment to funding the East African countries adequately.

Therefore, in light of the policy recommendations above, it was very imperative that a dialogue on understanding of the background, future and hopes of the climate change bill 2020 be held for the good of the local communities and all the climate change actors.

## **2.0 Organization**

### **2.1 Purpose of the Dialogue**

The purpose of the high-level public policy dialogue was part of our community empowerment initiatives of Efficacy Methodology which was intended to help the local communities to fully understand the climate change bill 2020 and prepare for implementations once it is passed into law. The dialogue was to stimulate public discussion that would make fighting climate change an inclusive activity and that would accelerate community participation.



The dialogue focused on three major topics;

- The background, future and hopes of the Climate Change Bill 2020
- The role of the private sector/civil society in fighting Climate Change
- How can climate change laws be a tool for fighting climate change? Perspectives from developed countries.

## **2.2 Contributors at the Policy Dialogue**

This edition of the climate change policy dialogue was organized by Efficacy Methodology. The event was not funded externally though the program was joined by three major actors from within Uganda and internationally. They are; the Climate Change Committee at Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Center for Constitutional Governance, Uganda and the Transformers Podcast, Sweden.

The event was free of charge and all the attendees needed was to register using their emails.

## **3.0 Processes during the Policy Dialogue**

The initial process of the dialogue was informed by the policy blog issued by Efficacy Methodology. A team of researchers undertook an extensive desk-based research on the topics to help guide the discussions effectively. We are also pleased to the panellists who made sufficient efforts to prepare and bring to the table an informed and well-grounded arguments.

The dialogue was hosted at Minister's Village Hotel, Ntinda. It was held virtually in conformity with the COVID-19 Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs).

The dialogue started at 2:05 pm (EAT) and it was well managed by the moderator who is the Chief Executive Officer of Efficacy Methodology. Throughout the dialogue process, the team ensured a smooth flow of the program and respected people's views given the fact that it was virtual.

This report forms the major part of the post-policy dialogue. It will be submitted to Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, governmental agencies, organizations and public libraries to further entrench the knowledge of climate



change bill 2020 to the wider communities. The video of the dialogue will also be available on the website and YouTube channel.

### 4.0 Data Analysis of the Policy Dialogue Attendees

The policy dialogue attracted 135 registrants out of which 82 participated in the dialogue. However, other participants dropped off due to either network failure or limited internet data. This left an average of 35 attendance throughout the session.

#### 4.1 Gender and Age group

The dialogue attracted mainly female (55%) which indicated that woman is more interested in mitigating climate change than men (45%).

Climate Change Policy Dialogue Attendance by Gender

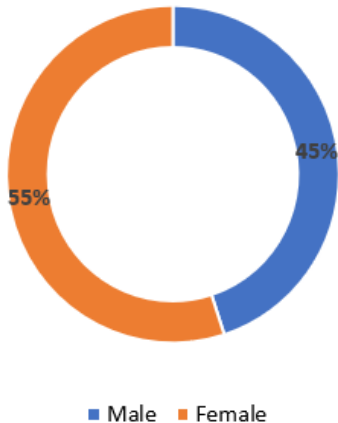


Figure 1: Climate Change Policy Dialogue Attendance by Gender

#### 4.2 Stakeholders Present at the Policy Dialogue

The Climate Change policy dialogue attracted 135 registered attendees; the majority of the participants were Students (30%), Academia (23%), Government (19%), Climate change-related organizations (16%) and Professionals (12%). This indicates that there is a wide interest in mitigating climate change.

## Industry of the Registrants

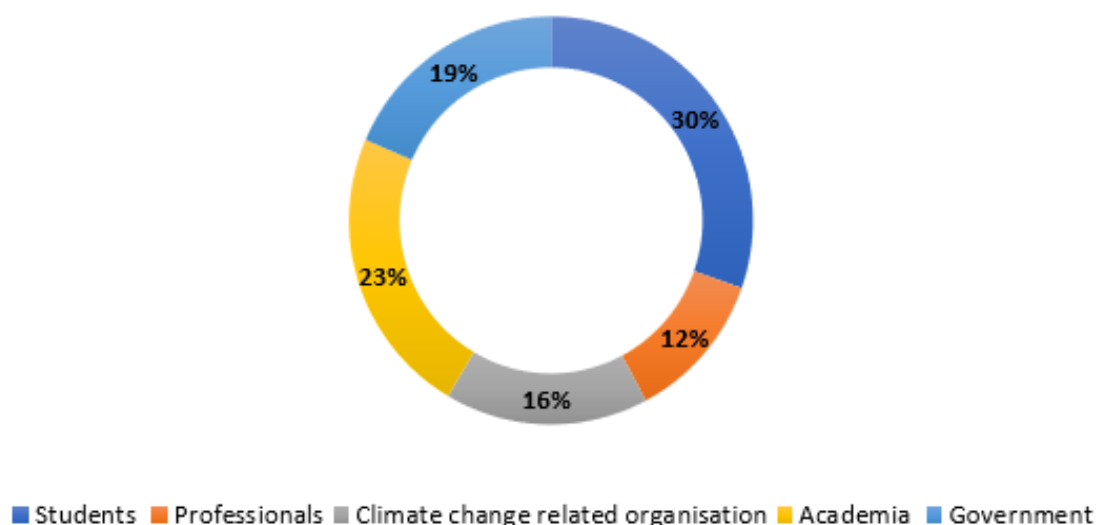


Figure 2: : Stakeholders at the Policy Dialogue

### 4.3 Satisfaction with the Policy Dialogue

The policy dialogue has received very good feedbacks and Efficacy Methodology was applauded for the initiative. One of the special guests said, “It is good that we are having a conversation about climate change”. Dr Maggie Kigozi, Former Executive Director at Uganda Investment Authority.

### 5.0 A brief about the presentations

The dialogue was graced by a panel of experts, board members of Efficacy Methodology and prominent members of the society. All the panellists presented an informed best-case scenario ideal for Uganda to maximize climate change mitigation efforts. The panellists included; Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa, the Chairperson Climate Change Committee at Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, Mrs. Sarah Bireete, the Executive Director at Center for Constitutional Governance, Uganda and Mr. Kaj Embren, the Chief Executive Officer of the Transformers Podcast, Sweden.

The special guests in attendance included; Dr. Maggie Kigozi, former Executive Director at Uganda Investment Authority, Dr. Frank Rusa, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) and the

Netherland Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Ms. Eunice Musiime, the Executive Director at Akina Mama wa Afrika. The dialogue was also attended by participants from Uganda Christian University, Makerere University, Makerere University Business School, Kyambogo University, Uganda Management Institute, GREENWATCH Uganda and the National Association of Professional Environmentalist (NAPE).

The occasion was also graced by Dr Dan Ayebale, the Vice-Chairperson, Board of Directors at Efficacy Methodology and Associate Professor Thomas Archibald also a Board Member at Efficacy Methodology.

## **5.1 Key Highlights at the Dialogue**

### **5.1.1 The background, future and hope of the Climate Change Bill 2020 – Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa**

- Recently, the climate change standing committee was formed in Parliament of Uganda [2017]. The country never had a climate change law and what we had was just a Parliamentary forum on climate change. However, since the formation of the committee, work began immediately and climate change bill was widely consulted.
- The committee play key roles in climate adaptation and mitigation; (i) it scrutinizes all the climate-related issues in relations to other conventions in other different ministries. (ii) The committee also have a responsibility of bringing the works of all other stakeholders; the private sector, the Academia and all other climate change agencies together to see that the efforts towards climate adaptation and mitigation are consistent.
- Uganda is also a signatory to all the international agreements on climate change; UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris agreement. It is therefore imperative that Uganda domesticate these protocols. The object of climate change bill is to give the force of law in Uganda to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement; to provide for climate change response measures; to provide for participation in climate change mechanisms; to provide for measuring of emissions, reporting and

verification of information; to provide for institutional arrangements for coordinating and implementing climate change response measures; to provide for financing for climate change; and other related matters.

- The defect in the law, there is no legal framework governing climate change interventions. The absence of such framework is an obstacle in translating the identified policy priorities into implementable actions with tangible climate change benefits. Therefore, there is a need for a legal and regulatory framework for climate change.
- The challenges Uganda face concerning climate change impact are enormous and leaving climate change out is a big risk. For instance, many children die because of air pollution that emanates from lack of clean cooking environment in villages. Thus, Uganda has developed several policies and strategies that seek to harness the vision 2040.
- Based on the Paris Agreement, Uganda has committed to promote renewable energy and priorities adaptation. The key to that is by developing sustainable hydroelectric power. The hydroelectric power we are building is from high-interest loans which relies heavily on the scale of the waters and the surrounding environment. Unfortunately, the surrounding forest cover is being depleted by charcoal burners owing to no alternative source of income and in the long run, there is a possibility that these dams may not generate power since their effectiveness relies on the environment which will have been destroyed. Therefore, we must develop adaptive approaches to fighting climate change and look at the solutions holistically to be able to provide alternative livelihood to people.
- Furthermore, Uganda should be moving towards a low carbon economy and there is a need to cut transportation cost in order to build resilient transport that can stand the effect of climate change. In 2020, the floating highland on Lake Victoria affected the power generation in the country. This situation raises the need for an energy mix so that if one source of power is affected the country can quickly move to another alternative source.

- Uganda has never received funding from the green climate financing as promised. This has made the country to lag behind in her climate change response and yet the issue of climate financing is critical when fighting climate change. This bill is cognizant of that fact and has provided for the climate change fund to support community initiatives in fighting climate change.
- In Africa, Lake Victoria and River Nile are very important in fighting climate change. Therefore, all African countries ought to work together to protect the water resources and its environment because if it is destroyed so many livelihoods will be affected.
- Throughout the process of formulating the bill, the climate change committee worked with all other stakeholders and organizations fighting climate change.

### **5.1.2 The role of the private sector/civil society in fighting climate sector. - Seera Bireete**

- It is great to see the world realize that climate change mitigation is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed. In Uganda, the forest cover is declining at an alarming rate. In Kenya, the snow cover on Kilimanjaro is gone. There are so many other visible effects of climate change.
- Our leaders must recognize that climate change is here. Henceforth, all key investment decisions need to be taken after a thorough environmental impact assessment. Regrettably, the oil deals have been signed without due environmental assessment. These kinds of decision reflect on how government is reluctant when it comes to environmental protection.
- Government should realize that climate change risk is the biggest risk as compared to political risk. It is therefore important for Uganda to take these issues seriously. The role of the National Environmental Management Authority is critical for environmental protection and yet we are still not taking its role like environmental impact assessment seriously.

- Uganda's forest cover is declining at a speedy rate and it's worrying. If we compare with Tanzania, one will note that Tanzania has prioritized tree planting and the country is doing well which Uganda equally needs to adopt.
- In the constitution, there are scanty provisions that are relating to environmental and climate change mitigation. Environmental issues are not well detailed which depicts the casual approach from our leaders when handling matters of the environment and climate change adaptation. But, it's a pleasure to see the committee trying their best.
- The civil society plays key roles in creating awareness among the communities; advocate for entrenched policy-making decisions, improve legitimacy and accountability efforts to attain great citizens engagements, disaster risk and management as part of great climate change adaption and build capacity for adaptive actions to reduce vulnerability, mitigate risks and resilience among communities.
- Our government is weak at signing protocols and international agreements. In most cases, after signing the agreements they forget their responsibilities to those treaties. So, the civil society also help build strategies for ensuring bigger climate change campaign and make it political risky for the political leadership to ignore the effects of climate change.

### **5.1.3 How can a Climate Change Law be a tool in fighting Climate Change? Perspectives from developed countries. - Kaj Embren**

- The climate change laws doesn't solve the climate crises. It has to add other policies and actions that have to serve the climate laws intentions and targets. Governance structures with incentives, smart regulations, collaboration and stakeholders' relations are vital for its effectiveness.
- The United Kingdom was set to reduce emissions by 43% since 1990. In 2020, the committee on climate change reported that policy implementation has not met the required ambition and the government are not even on track for the current 2050 Net-zero target.

- Europe's economy and society is to become climate neutral by 2050. To achieve this; (i) Europe has set the long-term direction meeting the 2050 climate neutrality objective through all its policies in a socially fair and cost-efficient manner. (ii) A system for monitoring progress and further action has been created. (iii) Predictability for investors and other economic actors were provided. (iv) Ensure that the transition to climate neutrality is irreversible. (v) The climate laws included measures to keep track of progress and adjust actions through providing regular reports by the European Environment Agency.
- Sweden perspectives: Sweden's targets formulated in the Climate law is zero emission by 2045 and to achieve this, Sweden is strongly focusing on; (i) Ensuring that the climate laws are strongly related to the overall government policies and actions. (ii) Ensuring strong linkages with different sectors of taxes, infrastructures, transport, agriculture, energy, migrations, labour and education. (iii) Climate statistics are annually reported and an action plan proposed every 4th year. (iv) An independent climate change committee that annually analyses the climate response and provide independent reports formed.
- Developed and developing countries: There is a need to increase the share of climate finance allocated for adaptation and building resilience to at least 50 per cent of climate change finance. Currently, climate change adaption and resilience only account for 20-30 per cent.
- A decade ago, the world promised \$100 billion towards the support of fighting climate change. The world must meet their obligation to fight climate change. The Glasgow convention (COP26) in 2021 is yet another opportunity for world leaders to act urgently.
- Africa has a young population and the demographic dividends necessitate that Africans should act now and drive the needed change to meet high climate targets. A Law with high level of ambitions in policies and actions will help stimulate new technology, create jobs and secure adaptation programmes.



- International funds, private investments, philanthropic capital, green bonds, emission trade solutions, crowdsourcing and crowdfunding are critical in fighting climate change and ought to be harnessed fully to build global resilience and adaptation.

## **6.0 Policy Discussion Session: Question and Answer approach.**

1. What has been the cause of delay in presenting the bill?

There is political will from both government and parliament. However, the committee had to make wider consultations with all the stakeholders in order for the bill to be inclusive as it is now. Hon. Biyika

2. In Kenya, the private sector finance about 41% of the climate change activities. What is the committee doing to galvanize private sector funding in Uganda?

The bill has provision for climate change fund where the private sector or anybody who wishes to support the climate change initiative is able to contribute funds. The funds will be accessed by any community that wishes to undertake activities intended to fight climate change. Hon. Biyika

3. Uganda's policies are mostly concentrated at the top detaching the local people. What is in the bill that will allow effective local participation?

The involvement of the local participants is very important. The bill provides good structures that emphasises the participation of the local people to the fullest and this will be implemented at the grassroots. The bill provides for the Climate Change Advisory Committee which will comprise of technical experts to advise Ministry of Water of Environment and other climate change agencies on appropriate actions to be taken. At the grassroots, there will be a Climate Change Committee at Local Government level that will develop district action plan. The bill also provides that Ministry of Finance should submit annual report to Parliament on how much funds they have sent to the different responsible key actors. Hon. Biyika

4. There has been continuous destruction of wetlands across the country. What is the position of the committee regarding the rampant investments into wetlands?

Several attempts are being put in place to correct this unfortunate occurrence. As we speak now, about 400 illegal titles will be cancelled. The most important aspect is that when investments are being done, there should be a thorough environmental impact assessment by the NEMA.

The challenge which has remained is enforcement and some people don't value the environment. The bill provides for the security body that will be working in environmental protection to be recruited directly as employees of NEMA to solve the issue of funding enforcement process and they will be trained by the police. Hon. Biyika

There is a need to create intensive awareness to the local communities and general public so that everyone is informed of the importance of protecting the environment.

5. Does the bill address gender impact on women?

This bill is very inclusive. Special attention to women issues is observed because they are directly affected by climate change.

6. How does the bill address the role of Public University in fighting climate change?

The bill is critical in research and Universities needs to undertake research and share information with the wider public.

7. In most cases, our challenges stem from lack of implementation of laws. What measures do we have to ensure that this bill is effectively implemented if passed into law?

The bill provides for the climate change fund, increase in awareness and provide for stringent measures against people who destroy the environment. Hon. Biyika

8. Do you think the private sector in Uganda is doing less when it comes to contributing to investment in climate change?

The government holds in trust national assets including natural resources on behalf of Ugandans. They should exercise their mandate in the interest of the people. But we find ourselves in a situation where CSOs and Ugandans are suing the National Environmental Management Authority and Government for degrading the environment. Sarah Bireete

It is critical for the law to harmonise the interest between government and environmental stakeholders. In Sweden, an independent fossil-free action group was created and the body has helped in harmonising stakeholders' conflicts. Kaj Embren

9. Currently, Kampala is a very dirty city. Is it possible for the civil society to demand for a clean Kampala city?

When you have a declining and regressing democratic architecture you cannot preserve the environment, ensure a clean city and protect the rights of the citizens. Sarah Bireete.

Cities can now be much cleaner and the role of the city authorities should be part of fighting climate change. Kai Embren.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

The key recommendations from the policy dialogue to Parliament, Government and other stakeholders are;

- i. The climate change advisory board set out in the bill ought to be an independent body that will independently assess the efforts and activities on fighting climate change.
- ii. Government holds in trust public resources thus they ought to desist from degrading the environment and destroying wetlands under the pretense of industrial investments. For instance, the case of Mabira National Forest gives away.
- iii. Fighting climate change requires an action-oriented approach and not politicizing the processes.

- iv. The young people are encouraged to demand for environmental accountability, participate in environmental conservation and continuously plant a tree every month.
- v. The world's commitment of \$100 billion funding for climate change must be met and COP26 can be used to reawaken the conversation.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

We can all agree that the need to adapt, mitigate and mainstream climate change to the local communities is critical for building sustainable resilience. Efficacy Methodology will continue to advance its efforts in combating climate change in Uganda, Africa and across the world.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Profile of The Panelists and The Host



#### **Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa.**

He is the chairperson Climate Change Committee at Parliament of the Republic of Uganda and a Member of Parliament for Ora County, Zombo District. He is an entrenched environmentalist and an accomplished legislator. He participated and led Uganda to the development of the current climate change bill 2020. Hon. Lawrence holds a Master of Science in Environment and Natural Resources from Makerere University and a Master of Business Administration from Cavendish University.



#### **Sarah Bireete**

Sarah is Uganda's most celebrated constitutional watchwoman. For over 15 years, she has been actively demanding for constitutionalism in this country. The energetic human rights defender is an accomplished lawyer who has defended the rights of many vulnerable people across the continent. She is currently the Executive Director of Center for Constitutional Governance and a Partner founder of Kamugisha Advocates.



#### **Kaj Embren**

Kaj Embrén is a Swedish sustainable development expert with more than 30 years of experience working in climate change mitigation, sustainable business, and green finance. He has extensive knowledge of the green economy, and a track record of collaborating with public, private, and non-governmental organizations in Europe and across the world. He has also served as a senior advisor to the South Pole Group and as Managing Director of Crowdsourcing Week Europe. Embrén has increasingly looked too green bonds, alternative finance, and the use of digital solutions to transform cities. He is currently the Director of the Transformers Podcast.






#### **Benard Cankara (Host)**

Benard is the Chief Executive Officer & Founder of Efficacy Methodology. He is a Researcher and Public Policy Expert. He has collaborated with many institutions in ensuring public policy integration in governments in East Africa. He is an expert in Research Methodology, Mixed Methods, RCTs, Policy Analysis and Monitoring & Evaluation. He holds a Master of Research and Public Policy from Uganda Christian University and a Bachelor Degree in Management from Kyambogo University.

## Appendix 2: Featured Policy Blogs on Climate Change

[https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/4416013/normal\\_605d733171946.pdf](https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/4416013/normal_605d733171946.pdf)

## Appendix 3: The Program for the Policy Dialogue




**Theme: Understanding Uganda's Climate Change Bill 2020**

**Virtual Event Program**

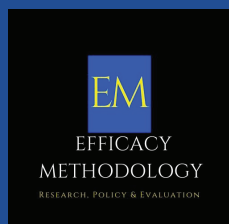
1.	Opening Prayer	2 Mins
2.	Introduction & Opening Remarks - Moderator	10 Mins
3.	The background, the future and the hope of the Climate Change Bill - Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa	20 Mins
4.	The role of the private sector and the civil society in fighting climate change - Sarah Bireete	20 Mins
5.	How can a Climate Law be a tool to fight Climate Change? Perspectives from developed countries - Kaj Embrén	20 Mins
6.	Policy Discussion [questions and response approach]	40 Mins
7.	Closing remarks from the speakers	6 Mins
8.	Closer of the dialogue session and Closing Prayers	2 Mins

*Join Online*

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021  
Time: 2pm- 4pm (EAT)

  
Video Conferencing

**Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dbKHsruKRGqADw8069Mf1A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dbKHsruKRGqADw8069Mf1A)**



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