

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
**Union \* Work \* Progress**

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**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

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**ROUND TABLE ON THE CLIMATE ORGANIZED  
FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Speech by Madame **Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT**,  
Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of Congo,  
Technical Coordinator of the Climate Commission  
of the Congo Basin

**Brazzaville, April 21, 2021**

## INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nations, developing countries produce only 1% of global greenhouse gases but are the first direct victims. The lives of 120 million people living in extreme poverty are at the mercy of climate calamities.

Here in the Republic of Congo in 2019, 170,000 people were hit by the floods. They have lost everything. In 2020 the figures were even more critical.

The facts are hard, the facts are unfair, but they embody our reality.

## ADVOCACY

In 2016, in Marrakech, You were with us Excellency Kerry, at the Summit of African Heads of State, His Excellency Denis **SASSOU-N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo and Head of State, on the proposal of His Majesty Mohamed VI King of Morocco has taken up the challenge of the third millennium by supporting the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin.

16 Heads of State, united by the desire to take their destiny in hand, have decided to create the first African financing mechanism for Africa in order to ensure the preservation of the world's second ecological lung, by financing a sustainable economic transition in Central Africa. For the record, our peatlands represent with 30 billion tons of carbon, a carbon sink equivalent to 15 to 20 years of emissions from the United States and three years of total emissions from the planet, according to the IPCC.

An investment portfolio of 10 billion dollars for the next 10 years has been drawn up by the best international experts, in close collaboration with the countries of the Congo Basin. Energy, water, sanitation, waste, transport, these investments are a roadmap for the implementation of our Determined National Contributions and the respect of our commitments for the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Governance was unanimously

approved deciding to entrust the management of these funds to a trusted partner, a development bank, to ensure management in accordance with international fiduciary standards.

The Blue Fund for the Congo Basin is ready. It now remains to be abounded. Many promises of funding were expressed. The United States is silent for the moment. At COP 26 in Glasgow The Blue Fund for the Congo Basin will be our note of hope and our new source of inspiration

## **CONCLUSION**

The whole world welcomes the return of the United States of America to the Paris Agreement, Africa rejoices and hopes again. Excellency Kerry, if you want to strike hard against climate change in Africa and reaffirm the leading role of the United States in this global mobilization, save the immense carbon sinks of the forests and peatlands of the Congo Basin!

It took millennia to create the forests of Central Africa, only a hundred years will be enough to destroy them, according to

IPCC experts if we do not stop the process of destruction that has started.

Africa's population is expected to reach two billion in less than 37 years and, in 86 years, three in four births will occur on the continent. Here is our stake.

As President Denis **SASSOU-N'GUESSO** said, an essential part of the world's oxygen is African. Help us to preserve it. Help us to help you.

Je vous remercie.

**Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT.-**