22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Remarks by Dr. Aminata Touré

It is globally agreed that countries that are going through climate change challenges are also the least prepared to adapt and they are also the ones that are most probably going to be most negatively impacted by climate change. Many sub-Sahara African countries are among this group, e.g. South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

It is also widely acknowledged that climate change challenges exacerbate existing drivers of conflict such as non access to basic services by a majority of the people, extreme poverty, joblessness of big cohorts of young people, political exclusion of discriminated groups are more likely to see increasing climate -related problems. Conflict over land and natural resources, have growingly been associated to the effects of climate change (Navone 2021).

Fragile states in sub-Saharan Africa face challenges to respond to the effects of climate shocks and rising temperatures. In that regard, I would like to acknowledge the work of Rudolpho Maino and Drilona Emrullahu published by IMF working papers in 2022, particularly the effect model (1980 to 2019) that showed that the effect of a 1 degree Census rise in temperature decreases income per capita growth in fragile states in SSA by 1.8 percentage points.

If nothing is done by 2050, Sub-Saharan Africa will be the region where climate change will push 39.7 million people into poverty (Jafino et al. 2020). Burke et al. (2009) found that, in Africa, higher temperatures lead to higher conflict incidence—a 1oC increase in temperatures leading to a surge in civil conflicts by 4.5 percentage points. Mason et al (2015) also showed that the vulnerability of fragile states' populations to climate change and natural disasters is much higher than in other countries. The Darfur conflict has been named the first climate change conflict because of the combinaison of political and environmental causes (Sova, 2017).

I also like to acknowledge the work of Okonjo-Iweala (2020) using Kompas et al. (2018) modeling data that predicts that climate change is expected to significantly decrease Africa's GDP through lowered crop yields, reduced agricultural and labor productivity, and damage to human health. Okonjo-Iweala stated in 2020 that "*Assuming no major changes in the world's social, economic, and technological trends, climate change resulting in a 3°C temperature will decrease Africa's GDP by as much as 8.6 percent per year after 2100. If climate change is limited to the 1.5°C agreed to in the Paris Agreement, the decrease in GDP will be significantly less—only 3.8 percent per year after 2100.*" I also agree with Beza Tesfaye at Center for Strategic and International Studies who conducted research showing that governance is a critical factor in challenges related to peace and stability.

We also know by experience that weak governance and conflicts also add significant tolls on fragile states and increase their vulnerability to climate change. Lack of inclusiveness in land tenure policies, poor arbitrage between agricultural and pastoral interests is also source of conflict under challenging climate conditions. As Crisis Group International rightly puts it "*climate matters when it comes to war and peace, but the politics and policies surrounding*

climate matter even more." Yet many development actors working in climate change programs are not equipped to deal with political or governance-related issues that impact their work on a daily basis. They are often operating at local level while decisions are taken at national level. Therefore, it is important to mainstream climate challenges into global peace building processes to break siloed operations.

In conclusion, I like to say that State building and State-rebuilding is the master- response. To that end, it requires sound strategies to reconstruct inclusively broken social fabrics, promote citizen participation, effective inclusiveness and real participation of young people and women, respect of human rights, equitable sharing of resources and genuine international support and solidarity. The case of Rwanda is an encouraging one since the country emerged from its ashes to become a success story after the 1993 genocide that claimed the lives of 800.000 Rwandans. Prevention of conflicts must be a priority of the international community and countries must individually and collectively building a worldwide culture of peace, equality and inclusiveness. To that end, the United Nations Organization has a fundamental convening and mediation role to play.