



Notes from the closing plenary “ In the run-up to COP16 Biodiversity, what lessons can be drawn from the first initiatives aimed at converging climate and biodiversity issues in Africa?” of the event “*African/European perspectives – Connecting development, climate and conservation actors*”

Description:

COP 16 on biodiversity, to be held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, will serve as a test for the world's decision-makers. Will it enable them to complete the decisions that were not finalised at the previous COP? A wide range of issues remain unresolved: global stocktaking, international financing, benefit-sharing from digitised genetic resources, standardised indicators for monitoring the implementation of targets, etc. The stakes are high and the negotiations will be intense. The aim of this closing round table is to discuss the latest progress made over the last two years in Europe and Africa. To do this, it will take a cross-continental perspective and focus on the convergence of the climate and biodiversity agendas, the role of local authorities (including cities) and the support given to grassroots projects, and the role of civil society in implementing the objectives of the global framework.

Moderation:

- **Rozenn Nakanabo Diallo**, Senior Lecturer in Political Science, Sciences Po Bordeaux

Speakers:

- **Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister of Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention
- **Pierre Hurmic**, Mayor of the City of Bordeaux
- **Ronan Dantec**, Senator of Loire Atlantique, President of Climate Chance
- **Michèle Rubirola**, Vice-president, Cités Unies France, First Deputy Mayor of Marseille
- **Aboubacar Samoura**, Director General of the Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, representative of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Guinea (video)
- **Adja Aissatou SY**, Coordinator, l'Observatoire des aires Protégées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Sénégal (OBAPAO)
- **Mamadou Diawara**, Executive Director, Guinée Ecologie

Notes:

Intervenant.e	Sujet
Pierre Hurmic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The closing ceremony will focus on the ecological initiatives undertaken in Bordeaux and on North-South cooperation to meet environmental challenges.● In France, 24,000 hectares of natural areas are destroyed every year, underlining the urgency of ecological action: “Ecology later is ecology too”



	<p>late”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Bordeaux, greening projects are underway, with over 10,000 trees planted each year and efforts to green all public school playgrounds. ● Urban ecology is essential to preserving a city's natural wealth. ● Solarisation and greening of roofs, with a programme targeting 60,000 m² of green roofs. ● Bordeaux is also involved internationally, for example with the World Forum on the Social Solidarity Economy (GESES), whose last congress was held in Dakar, and which will be held in Bordeaux in October 2025.
Agnès Pannier-Runacher (Ministre de la Transition écologique)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparations for COP16 must involve all stakeholders, including civil society and local and regional authorities, in concerted and inclusive actions.
Adja Aissatou Sy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CSE (Ecological Monitoring Centre) is very active on issues of biodiversity, climate and desertification. It is working on a regional programme in West Africa with OBAPAO. ● Biodiversity is a cross-cutting issue that should not be dealt with by governments alone; civil society plays an essential role. ● Funding must take into account the resilience of local populations, particularly those living in the worst affected areas.
Mamadou Diawara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The preparation of COPs at national level is an opportunity for civil society to make its case. ● It is crucial to promote Nature-based Solutions, which have a direct impact on biodiversity, ecosystems and people. ● Emphasise the importance of the efforts of local populations, who are often neglected by governments, in implementing solutions.. ● There is a disparity between national policies and local realities, creating difficulties of application on the ground.
Michèle Rubirola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The need to develop an integrated and holistic approach to biodiversity conservation issues. ● Importance of nature-based solutions and the involvement of local communities, while valuing traditional knowledge. ● Encourage innovative partnerships and avoid mechanisms such as “permits to degrade”. ● Reconciling agricultural needs, conservation and economic issues, not forgetting the importance of urban biodiversity. ● Strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation within existing networks. ● Announcement of the Climate Chance Europe / Africa Summit in Marseille in spring 2025!
Ronan Dantec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will be strong expectations from African countries at COP16 for financial support, given the difficult economic situation. ● A major challenge will be to find innovative forms of financing to support biodiversity initiatives. ● Need to broaden discussions beyond specialists to include a wider range of stakeholders. ● Importance of creating regular opportunities for dialogue on biodiversity in order to better understand and respond to global issues.



A key quote from each speaker:

Speaker	Verbatim, key phrases, operational proposals
Pierre Hurmic	"Ecology later is ecology too late."