

Report on the Eleventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA–XI)

and

Outcome statement on priority issues to take climate action forward in Africa.

on the theme:

*Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for
Africa and the World*

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Nairobi, Kenya



in partnership with

Introduction

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank, that is conferred the mandate from the African Union Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII) of the 8th Ordinary Session in 2007, to support climate interventions in African countries. The initiative hosts the annual conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA). The CCDA is traditionally convened each year, in partnership with the Government of any African Union Member State that hosts the Conference, ahead of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP). The annual conference brings together different African stakeholder groups on climate change to discuss key climate change and development challenges facing the continent as well as identify opportunities and solutions. The conference promotes evidence-based and analytically grounded contributions that feed into the African common position meetings in the international discourse on climate change. This year, the ClimDev-Africa partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry of the Government of Kenya and with the support of the PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), propose to convene the eleventh CCDA (CCDA-XI) conference on September 1 – 2, 2023 in Nairobi, as the technical segment of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) under the ACS overarching theme; “Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World”. The technical segment will feature expert group discussions to address the subthemes of the ACS. CCDA-XI will be structured as a high-level policy dialogue on climate change. Climate change and development experts and stakeholders will take part in a pre-summit event that will develop outcome statements and contribute to the recommendations for the ACS’s declarations on the subthemes. It will also include one day science symposium focused on discussions to improve and strengthen climate science capacities in Africa, and enhanced engagement in the 7th IPCC Assessment Cycle.

Context

The 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023) concludes, inter alia, that global warming has already reached 1.1 degrees Celsius, with devastating impacts including unprecedented extreme weather events, rapidly rising sea levels, and impacts on people and ecosystems. The report notes that climate impacts on people and ecosystems are more widespread and severe than expected, and future risks will escalate rapidly with

every fraction of a degree of warming¹. The IPCC warns that exceeding 1.5 degrees centigrade warming, even temporarily, will lead to much more severe, often irreversible impacts, from local species extinctions to the complete drowning of salt marshes to loss of human lives from increased heat stress. Even if fully implemented, the current revised nationally determined contributions to climate action (NDCs) put the world on a course of 1.7 degrees centigrade warming. However, in the absence of programmes and strategies to support the implementation of the NDCs, we are on a path to at least 2.5 degrees centigrade warming, which would have dire consequences for people, economies, ecosystems, and infrastructure, particularly so in Africa. The biggest challenge facing the translation of climate policies into actions is the limited financial resources needed to translate climate commitments into investments. While most countries have National Adaptation Plans buttressing their NDCs, these are mostly yet to progress from planning to implementation due to the huge financial gap, estimated at US \$60 billion per year (AUC, 2018) for the implementation. Similarly, many developing countries remain highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with resilience building measures remaining largely small-scale, reactive, and incremental. Furthermore, most climate actions - particularly in developing countries - focus on immediate impacts or near-term risks than long-term resilience building, due to limited finance. The 2022 Adaptation Gap Report² shows that developing countries received only USD 29 billion of public finance flows for adaptation, with Africa receiving USD 11.4 billion (consisting of 39% of the total climate finance flow of USD 29.5 billion to the continent in 2020³), with the most vulnerable countries receiving the least climate adaptation finance flows. The African Group of Negotiators on climate change (AGN) estimates that Africa needs USD 65 - 86.5 billion per year for adaptation alone up to 2030. This is close to eight times more than current adaptation financial flows to the continent. Although African countries contribute relatively little to global emissions (less than 4 percent), they remain at significant risk from the devastating economic effects of climate change. Between 1970 and 2019, Africa faced 15% of global weather, water, and climate related disasters, along with 35% of weather, climate, and water-related fatalities⁴. In recent times, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda suffered heavy loss of life, property, and insurmountable damage of critical infrastructure in particular roads,

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

² <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/41078/AGR2022.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

³ https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/GCA_State-and-Trends-in-Adaptation-2022_Adaptation-Finance-Flows-in-Africa.pdf

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1098662>

water treatment plants and power stations from unusual rainfall intensity and landslides, whose magnitude and loss to the economy are yet to be fully determined⁵. The escalating intensity and frequency of extreme climate events and weak coping capacities continue to undermine recent progress in development trajectories and pose a grave challenge to Africa's socio-economic development. Climate change vulnerability is further compounded by the deepening debt crisis, the economic impacts of the covid19 pandemic, and the prevailing Russia-Ukraine War, which has resulted into skyrocketing of food and commodity prices, leading to cost-of-living crisis. As climate impacts continues to negatively affect economies and livelihoods in Africa, the scientific and research capacity in the continent remains weak resulting in inadequate participation of the continent's scientists in global climate science and research processes. As an example, only 11% of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) authors are from Africa, which calls for actions to increase and support the engagement of African scientists in the seventh IPCC Assessment Cycle and beyond. Similarly, limited funding for climate research in Africa remains a major bottleneck, with some studies showing that only 3.8% of global funding for climate-change research of USD 1.51 trillion between 1990 and 2020 was spent on African topics, and African institutions received only 14.5% of the allocation. Evidently, African countries urgently need the capacity and knowledge to address the effects of climate change and to improve linkages between science, policy and practice in climate actions. However, the continent is endowed with natural resources, abundant renewable energy potential, a resourceful and youthful population, and arable land. With 17% of the world's population, Africa is projected to have the largest workforce in the world – surpassing both China and India by 2040. Further, it boasts 20,000 MW of geothermal, 350,000 MW of hydropower, 110,000 MW of wind and 40% of global solar irradiation clean energy resources potential. Harnessing this potential will be key to shaping the future of the continent. Capitalizing on these green growth opportunities will be crucial to the continent's future particularly as the decarbonization momentum gains more traction around the globe. Realizing Africa's Agenda 2063 aspirations and those of Sustainable Development Goals will be possible with proactive collective continental efforts leveraging the continent's own resources, together with effective partnerships with the broader international community to address the impacts of climate change and tackle barriers to Africa's transition to resilient development. The continent has been pro-active in defining and implementing

⁵ <https://www.theestafrican.co.ke/tea/science-health/east-africans-face-up-to-burden-and-loss-fromweather-4233246>

response measures, including the recently adopted African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032, and the continental Green Recovery Action Plan (2021-2027). The continent's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy prioritises action in five key areas:

- i). Climate finance, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding,
- ii). Supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and national Just Transition programmes,
- iii). Nature-based solutions and focus on biodiversity through work on sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism,
- iv). Resilient agriculture focusing on inclusive economic development and green jobs, and
- v). Green and resilient cities, including a focus on water (flooding and water resources) and enhancing information, communication, and technology.

The African Climate Summit is being convened in the context where the continent is seeking to accelerate implementation of its climate change strategies and actions to avert the catastrophic impacts of global warming and build the resilience of the continent's economies.

Objective

The overall objective of CCDA–XI is to produce detailed analytical data-driven and evidence-based recommendations on the various subthemes of the ACS. Reports from the conference will contribute to the outcome statements for African Heads of State, towards and beyond the UNFCCC COP28 to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Organization and Structure of CCDA-XI and linking the CCDA-XI to the ACS23

As the technical segment of the ACS, CCDA–XI will be organized around the themes of the Summit. Experts drawn from diverse backgrounds in Africa's socio-economic and political spheres will produce detailed papers on the status of each of the subthemes. The papers will inform Expert Group Meetings which will be convened in Nairobi, and whose main purpose will be to review the technical papers, validate the content and produce outcome statements for the Summit. The first day of the CCDA will consist of technical meetings of these expert groups, while the second day will be a High-Level segment for policy and decision-makers to review and finalize statements for the Summit. This year, the CCDA XI will directly benefit the Africa Climate Summit (ACS). The 2023

Africa Climate Summit (ACS23) will be different, as it structures the agenda around solutions, mobilising attention, and traction, whilst highlighting how the different topics intersect. The climate positive framing focuses on the opportunity first and does not ignore the challenges. Instead, it presents the challenges in the context of the opportunity and allows stakeholders to continuously see the potential benefit of overcoming challenges and identify the constraints that need to be resolved to unlock opportunities.

Overview of the 2023 Africa Climate Summit

The ACS will make propositions based on four key principles:

1. Climate action and economic development are not in conflict but interdependent; they need to happen together, or neither will happen.
2. We need to ensure that capital is optimized and spent on a global basis (with carbon reduction as a return parameter) rather than locally optimized— many of the lowest cost sources of reducing global emissions are typically found in the Global South compared with industrialized countries.
3. We as Low and Low Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) have a lot to contribute to the global climate agenda and we need to commit to playing our part. We cannot keep growing in a high-carbon intensive manner.
4. We as a global community commit to achieving three climate finance goals: More financing, targeted financing, and cheaper higher risk appetite financing.

The Africa Climate Summit will ensure Africa’s voice is elevated globally and integrated into existing international fora such as UNGA, G7/G20 processes, and UNFCCC COP 28 among others. The Summit will be held concurrently with the Africa Climate Week (4th – 8th September 2023) hosted in partnership with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, an annual UNFCCC-led event to promote actions that allow to course-correct and achieve the Paris Agreement goals and objectives.

Organisation of work for the CCDA-XI

Oversight and guidance to the CCDA-XI and ACS23 are important in ensuring timely delivery of the theme, goals, and agenda. The CCDA-XI provided input to the Summit by responding to the issues raised by the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) in their meetings, when climate change was considered, and similarly considering the decisions taken by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at

their respective meetings and statements issued by the African Group of Negotiators. It is important that the CCDA XI, deliberated on and took guidance from the African policy institutions, among them the African Union Commission (AUC), CAHOSCC and AMCEN.

Overview of the ACX23 theme and pillars. Overall, the ACX23 had seven pillars as follows.

- Energy Transition & Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Infrastructure & Urbanization
- Green Minerals & Manufacturing
- Nature
- Sustainable Agriculture, Land, Water, and Oceans
- Adaptation & Resilience
- Climate Finance

For Africa, an equitable sharing of the 1.5°C temperature goal is not a fair and equitable proposition. Science tells us (IPCC, 2014) that emissions that occurred between 1850 and 1990 are responsible for about a 0.75-degree Celsius warming of the atmosphere. These historical emissions are a result of the industrialisation that was pursued by the developed countries. Sharing 1.5 or 2.0°C as a collective mitigation goal by all countries is unfair and must be rejected. This means the developed countries have already used half of the carbon space, for which they (Annex I Parties) must be accountable. The remaining 0.75°C carbon space will then be shared by all countries who are Parties to the Paris Agreement. This will allow Africa to benefit from an equitable space for development.

Key outcome of the CCDA-XI and ACS23

The outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) would be tabled before the UN General Assembly and the Secretary-General's Summit in September 2023 in New York and will also serve as input into the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group in Marrakech in October 2023, and the COP28 negotiations in Dubai in November and December 2023. Additionally, it is significant for our agenda that COP28 will be historic in that it marks the first “global stocktake” under the Paris Agreement.

Outcome statement on priority issues to take climate action forward in Africa

1. The CCDA-XI was convened by ClimDev-Africa (AfDB, UNECA, AUC) in partnership with PACJA, AICCRA, SEI, WMO-RoA and a number of organizations; and hosted by the Government of Kenya as technical input into the Africa Climate Summit, convened on the theme: ***“Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World: Africa in solidarity for Global Climate Action”*** in collaboration with Africa’s civil society organisations, academia, development partners and the private sector.

Preamble

2. *Noting* that African countries continue to show leadership in advancing action on climate change,
3. *Welcoming* the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032), a continental framework for climate action,
4. *Also welcoming* the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan,
5. *Further welcoming* the United Nation Secretary General’s Early Warning for All initiative,
6. *Noting* that developed countries responsible for 75% of historical carbon emission, whilst Africa accounts for less than 4 percent, but has already warmed by more than 1 degree,
7. *Concerned* by low global ambition, particularly by developed countries not doing their fair share to address the urgency of climate action.
8. *Mindful* of the opportunities that Africa can provide in the global fight against climate change, within the context of its sustainable development and poverty eradication priorities,

9. *Concerned about* the increasing frequency and severity of climate change impacts resulting in disproportionate effects on African economies and societies, with countries estimated to be losing on average 5% of GDP and many countries diverting up to 9% of their budgets in unplanned responses to extreme weather events,
10. *Noting* the need for just transitions that caters to Africa's special needs and special circumstances, preserving the need to meet its development aspirations,
11. *Noting* the Kigali Communiqué on a Just and Equitable Energy Transition in Africa and the African Union Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition,
12. *Welcoming* the endorsement by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) of the African Common Position on Climate Change for COP28, ,
13. *Concerned* that many developed countries have consistently failed to honour their commitment on providing adequate and predictable climate finance,
14. *Further concerned* about the inadequacy of the current global financial architecture to deliver meaningful climate and development,
15. *Noting* that Africa's priority remains adaptation and building resilience, and also acknowledging Africa's potential to contribute to mitigation through investments in renewable energy and green technologies,
16. *Concerned* at the high cost of capital to invest in green growth options and *noting* that less than 2% of global investments in clean energy flow to Africa,
17. *Mindful* that Africa needs to industrialize, capitalizing on its abundant clean energy resources, to close its substantial development gaps,
18. *Noting* that by leveraging the AfCFTA, African countries can produce electric battery and battery precursors by up to 30% cheaper cost lower emissions,
19. *Welcoming* the initiative by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, ECA, Afreximbank, African Development Bank, BADEA, and Africa Finance Corporation to establish a special economic zone between DRC and Zambia
20. *Noting* that this will position Africa in the global and regional electric batteries value chain to transform its green mineral resources by

- leveraging AfCFTA and placing the continent at the heart of the worldwide electrification agenda,
21. *Noting* the vast investment needed to drive green growth on the continent, including investment needs of at least USD 2 trillion by 2050 in the power sector alone,
 22. *Recognizing* the potential of high integrity and inclusive carbon markets as an additional source of climate finance, whilst acknowledging that carbon markets are supplementary to domestic mitigation efforts,
 23. *Concerned about* the limited investments in weather and climate observation infrastructure, early warning systems, and climate research in Africa,
 24. *And further concerned* that Africa share in global research outputs is less than 1%,
 25. *Noting* that gender, intergenerational equity, and justice are vital to address the inequalities of the climate emergency in Africa,
 26. *Mindful* of the urgency to invest in youth innovation and entrepreneurship, local communities and indigenous climate solutions,
 27. *Welcome* regional initiatives, including the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Platform, the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility, Climate Research for Development (C4RD) for Africa, and the Climate Action Window of the African Development Fund,

The eleventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa resolves as follows.

28. Africa's special needs and special circumstances must be recognized at COP28 to contextualize the Continent's just transition pathways.
29. Africa must be at the forefront of defining, leading, and owning people centred just transitions in the context of the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities.
30. Africa must optimally use its abundant resources to build people-centred and resilient economies to close development gaps and unlock socioeconomic benefits, create green and decent job opportunities, attain sustainable industrialization, and empower women, youth, local

- communities, and indigenous people most vulnerable to climate change.
31. Developed countries must take the lead by raising ambition to reduce emissions.
 32. Africa must strengthen regional integration and leverage the AfCFTA to drive its transition pathways towards energy and food security.
 33. Africa must lead the use of its natural assets to address its development priorities and ensure its participation in carbon markets are inclusive of high integrity and supplementary to domestic mitigation efforts. Africa must consider appropriate carbon tax mechanisms, including levies, for raising domestic revenues for local climate action.
 34. The African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan should be domesticated at national and sub-regional levels to accelerate climate action and strengthen collaboration and partnerships.
 35. Africa, development partners, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), partnerships such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and its programme for Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) and the private sector must work together to invest in Climate Information Services national and regional early warning and early action systems, for better adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.
 36. Africa needs to leverage support to upscale project financing to attain bankable projects that address adaptation and mitigation, thereby achieving financial, environmental, social, and governance criteria.
 37. Africa and development partners are urged to work together to find innovative ways of leveraging limited public resources to mobilize the investments needed for climate action.
 38. Africa must track climate finance flows earmarked for adaptation and mitigation to determine the impact of integrating adaptation and mitigation, recognizing that Africa's priorities are in adaptation.
 39. Africa must also recognise that a binary approach to adaptation and mitigation is a barrier to implementing enhanced climate actions.
 40. Africa must track the impact of climate finance and the degree to which their adaptative capacity is reinforced, focusing on vulnerable communities.

41. Africa should prioritize leveraging of grant-based interventions to build capacities to address adaptation needs and finance youth initiatives to catalyze effective adaptation.
42. Africa must enhance capacity-building efforts and technical assistance, such as project preparation facilities, to bring multiple feasible projects to financial, environmental, social and governance bankability.
43. Africa, development partners and the private sector should work together to develop support and finance risk transfer and de-risking instruments for large-scale projects that need to get off the ground.
44. Africa needs to aggregate small projects to make them more appealing to investors and increase their viability at scale.
45. Africa and development partners must invest in communication systems to facilitate interaction between users, including small farmers, to improve productivity and implement climate change education programs in local communities using local languages to ensure access to early warning systems for agricultural challenges.
46. Africa must explore debt-for-nature/debt-for-climate swaps to bridge the financial gap and accelerate the implementation of initiatives like the Great Blue Wall, promoting sustainability and job creation.
47. Africa must enhance the science-policy-practice interface to promote data and information gathering, product development, and advice on climate change.
48. The African Union must lead efforts to establish an African funded Research Council to boost Africa research capacities and output and further call researchers in and out of the continent to contribute to Africa's research needs.
49. Africa must ensure that its education and training systems are responsive to climate change.
50. Africa's energy transition must be defined and owned by Africa, following differentiated pathways and timelines according to national circumstances.
51. Africa must domesticate the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition.
52. Africa and development partners should prioritise investments for the enabling infrastructure for the energy transition, including accelerated investments in the Africa Single Electricity Market (ASEM) and the

Africa Continental Master Plan.

53. Africa must implement multidisciplinary research to fill knowledge gaps, enhancing Africa's scientific capacities, and fostering collaboration among climate science, services, policy, and practice communities recognising the importance of climate research in achieving effective climate action.
54. Africa should invest in the empowerment and training young people in research and innovation.
55. Developed countries must enhance the provision of climate finance to meet the needs of Africa for the pre-2030 period, and further to allocate new financial resources, representing progression and highest possible ambition from previous efforts to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.
56. Developed countries must demonstrate the highest ambition for the replenishment of the climate funds, in particular the Green Climate Fund.
57. Africa should implement regional approaches that address transboundary and cascading nature of climate risks and the threat they pose to human security, risk to development and the accompanying investment needs.

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