



GOVERNO DA
GUINÉ-BISSAU



AFRICAN ISLAND STATES CLIMATE COMMISSION

Concept Note

Technical Committee Meeting and Ministerial Conference

13-17 October 2025

Guinea Bissau

1.0 Background

The African Union Summit Decision on Africa's Engagement in the Global Climate Change Negotiations at UNFCCC COP 22 was adopted during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in January 2017 (Assembly/AU/Dec.640(XXVIII)). The Decision welcomes the establishment of three climate Commissions, the African Island States, chaired by the Republic of Seychelles, the Sahel region, chaired by the Republic of Niger, the Congo Basin region, chaired by the Republic of Congo; and stresses the importance of ensuring full coordination and cooperation with CAHOSCC.

The African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) is a partnership between nine member States: Comoros, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tanzania (Zanzibar), with the aim to galvanise political leadership, promote initiatives, solutions, innovations and finance for climate actions was officially launched in February 2020 at the 33rd AUC Head of States Summit. The Republic of Seychelles holds the Presidency of the AISCC since it was created in 2016.

The objectives of Africa Island States Climate Commission are defined as follows:

- To provide a holistic approach for African island states to address climate change in the context of sustainable development, through utilizing natural solutions, promoting innovation and new technologies with associated capacity building, and enhancing access to finance.
- To promote the required adaptation policies and measures, which are also catalysts for a deep economic and social structural transformation in Africa Island countries.

Since its official launch, the AISCC has gained momentum. A governance structure was put in place to facilitate coordination and exchange between the participating countries. The Governance structure of the AISCC is composed of the:

- Heads of State Summit which has a steering and coordination role
- Ministerial Conference having a policy guidance and operational role
- Technical Committee and Working Groups which are the implementation arm. It is comprised of National Focal Points (NFP) from each of the participating States.
- A Secretariat which is held by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) based in Mauritius.

In 2023, the AISCC achieved a major milestone during the meeting of first in person meeting of the technical working group in Seychelles which was supported by the IOC, the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) and the 4C Maroc. The meeting concluded with an Outcome





document, known as the Beau Vallon Outcome document¹, which defined the roadmap to guide the activities of the AISCC for two years. It was also decided at the technical meeting to alternate the in-person meeting between the two Atlantic and the Indian Ocean and to hold regular NFPs online meetings. This meeting requested partners to support AISCC Member States in strengthening their resilience capacities. This request was materialized through the RESIslands Initiative, the first AISCC flagship project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by UNECA.

In 2024 during the 4th International SIDS Conference (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda, AISCC organised a high-level dialogue co-hosted by Seychelles and Cabo Verde during which the coordination mechanism of the AISCC was discussed, as well as the importance of coordination between the different groupings of African and AIS SIDS.

In 2025, at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, at the high-level side event of the AISCC Guinea Bissau reiterated its offer, initially done at the AISCC High-Level Meeting during the 37th African Union Summit in 2024, to host a Ministerial meeting of the AISCC in October 2025 with the objective to strengthen the AISCC to amplify the voice of African SIDS and improve coordination and collaboration for the implementation of the regional and international frameworks for SIDS, including the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

2.0 The Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference will be held in Bissau on the 16 and 17 October 2025. It will bring together the Ministers and/or High-Level Officials from the 9 participating States, the national focal points forming the technical Committee, other Member States supporting the AISCC, the development partners, including AUC, UNDESA-SIDS Unit, OHRLLS, UNECA, IOC, African Development Bank, UNDP, Green Climate Fund and 4C Maroc and other technical and financial stakeholders of the AISCC.

The **technical committee** will meet three days prior to the Ministerial Conference with the objective to prepare the Conference, provide technical backstopping, and finalize all relevant documentation. This technical meeting will be held from 13 to 15 October 2025 in the littoral of Guinea Bissau.

3.0 Objectives

The Objectives of the meeting will be to:

- Adopt and sign the AISCC memorandum of understanding for cooperation
- Adopt a five-year strategy and work plan, including the priorities for regional projects
- Present the communication plan
- Discuss the coordination and collaboration mechanism between the AISCC and the African Small Islands Developing States and Madagascar (SIDSAM)²

¹ Beau Vallon Outcome document : <https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EN-VF-Beau-Vallon-Outcome-Documents-fin.pdf>

² AU Declaration-Assembly/AU/Decl. 3(XXIII)





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- Discuss the coordination mechanisms within the SIDS AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South of China Sea)
- Advance in the preparation of the AISCC resource mobilization and investment plan, and the legal framework for the operational rules and regulations and stakeholders engagement

4.0 Expected Results

- The Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation is signed
- The AISCC logo, the Communication Plan, Strategy and Workplan are adopted
- The coordination mechanism between the AISCC and the SIDSAM is agreed
- The coordination mechanism of the SIDS AIS region is discussed

5.0 Contact Persons:

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- Guinea Bissau Embassy in Addis – Amb. Maria Antonieta Pinto Lopes D'Alva: pdalvam@gmail.com
- NFP Seychelles – Mr. Wills Agricole: w.agricole@meteo.gov.sc
- NFP Seychelles – Mr. Tony Imaduwa: pscce@gov.sc
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6.0 Background documentation

- [African and Asian Island States Issue Bold Call for Financing Reform](#)
- [African Island States Advance Ocean Partnerships and Finance Innovation at 3rd UN Ocean Conference](#)
- [Island States commit to improve coordination at High-Level Dialogue at 4th International SIDS Conference](#)
- [COP29: High Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS](#)
- [African Island States at the center of a new partnership between ECA and Green Climate Fund announced at the 37th African Union Summit](#)
- [COP 28: African Small Island Developing States press for adaptation finance to fight climate change](#)
- Port Louis Recommendations
- [Beau-Vallon Outcome Document](#)
- [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#)





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- [Blue Future Conference](#)
- [Santa Maria Call to Action](#)
- Declaration SIDSAM: Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the African Small Island Development States and Madagascar (Praia -December 17th, 2016)
- [Antigua and Barbuda Plan of Action for SIDS \(ABAS\)](#)
- Praia Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the Small Island Developing States of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS - SIDS)
- Draft MoU



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