

KEY MESSAGES

PREAMBLE

The Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (**CCDA-XIV**) was convened under the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7 to 9 September 2026. ClimDev-Africa, a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and Africa Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), in partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), was established to strengthen Africa's response to climate change through improved generation, use and integration of climate information and services in development planning and policymaking.

CCDA-XIV, held under the theme *"From Pledges to Implementation: The Belém-Antalya-Addis Roadmap,"* sought to strengthen Africa's climate leadership by advancing coordinated policies, partnerships, investments and implementation for climate-resilient, low-emission development, while shaping Africa's engagement at COP31 and laying the foundation for an ambitious African-led COP32.

The Conference recalled key continental frameworks and commitments, including Agenda 2063; the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032); the Nairobi and Addis Ababa Declarations on Climate Change; the mandate of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC); AU Peace and Security Council decisions on climate, peace and security; the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); the Africa Mining Vision; Africa's Green

Minerals Strategy; the Africa Action Plan on Carbon Markets (AAPCM); the Kampala CAADP Declaration; the Africa Circular Economy Action Plan; and the

outcomes of the seventh Africa Climate Talks (ACTs-7).

These frameworks and commitments affirm that climate action in Africa is central to development, resilience, peace, industrialization, trade and transformation. They call for African-led pathways that protect policy and fiscal space, advance equity and the right to development, strengthen regional integration, build productive capacity, promote value addition, safeguard communities, and translate climate ambition into laws, institutions, budgets, investments and measurable results.

The opening session emphasized that Africa's climate narrative must shift from vulnerability to agency, leadership and delivery, while recognizing structural constraints and historical responsibility. UNECA noted that despite progress in climate commitments, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), implementation remains inadequate. Although Africa contributes less than 4 per cent of global emissions, it requires about USD 277 billion annually to implement its NDCs through 2030, while current finance meets only about 11 per cent of that need.

The AUC stressed that Africa must focus not only on what it seeks from global climate processes but also on what it can offer to strengthen global climate governance, particularly on climate finance and adaptation. The Conference therefore called for

practical, action-oriented outcomes that consolidate Africa's priorities for COP31, identify implementation actions, strengthen partnerships and investments, and advance a shared roadmap to COP32.

The AfDB emphasized that Africa has moved from pledges to promises and must now move decisively to implementation. The Belém-Antalya-Addis Roadmap offers an opportunity to translate climate finance, adaptation and resilience commitments into tangible benefits. Africa is not merely a victim of climate change but a source of solutions that must be financed and delivered at scale.

Afreximbank stressed that Africa must be recognized as an active architect of the global climate transition, drawing on its knowledge, institutions, resources, markets and youthful population. The continent's transition should be trade-led and anchored in the AfCFTA, advancing energy access, industrialization and development while ensuring that critical minerals generate local value addition, technology transfer, investment and decent jobs rather than exporting raw materials and opportunities.

PACJA underscored the urgency of moving from ambition and commitments to concrete climate action that reflects Africa's priorities and realities. It also called for a critical assessment of progress made on commitments and declarations emerging from the Africa Climate Summits of 2024 and 2025.

Against this backdrop, CCDA-XIV affirmed the need to move from climate participation to climate agency, from pledges to implementation, from fragmented projects to transformative finance, and from isolated climate actions to integrated development pathways. The Conference brought together policymakers, negotiators, regional organizations, financial institutions, researchers, civil society, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, the private sector and development partners across the continent and beyond to consolidate Africa's priorities, strengthen a common position for COP31, and advance preparations for COP32.

This document presents the key messages, recommendations and propositions of CCDA-XIV. Grounded in African agency, it seeks to shape global climate governance, secure adequate and accessible

finance, strengthen adaptation and resilience, harness African science, data and innovation, advance just transitions and sustainable industrialization, and deliver tangible benefits for Africa's people, economies and ecosystems. It will inform preparations for COP31 and ultimately COP32, to be held in Addis Ababa in November 2027.

SESSION 3: FROM CLIMATE PRIORITIES TO CLIMATE AGENCY

- CCDA-XIV underscored the need for Africa to move from climate participation to climate agency, shaping global climate governance, finance, technology, institutions and implementation.
- Climate ambition must be demonstrated through implementation, translating commitments into laws, budgets, investments, accountable institutions and measurable outcomes.
- Strong coordination across national, regional and continental levels is essential to strengthen African climate agency, support coherent negotiating positions and ensure effective implementation.
- African parliaments have a critical role in translating global commitments into legislation, budgets, oversight and implementation, while advancing a common African position towards COP31.

SESSION 4: AFRICA, SB64 AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- African climate agency requires a coherent and credible position rooted in equity, development priorities and the right to development, while safeguarding policy space, natural resources and advancing African-led solutions.
- The Conference recognized the UNFCCC as the foundation of global climate governance but stressed that effective climate governance must extend beyond the UNFCCC to the global institutions shaping finance, trade, technology and investment.

- Africa ensures that global rules, institutions and finance support its development priorities while enabling effective national implementation of NDCs, Adaptation Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports.

SESSION 5: REBUILDING THE GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE COMPACT

- CCDA-XIV reaffirmed developed countries' obligations under the Convention and Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement to provide predictable, adequate and accessible climate finance, while recognizing Africa's substantial fiscal efforts despite limited historical responsibility, severe fiscal constraints and competing development needs.
- CCDA-XIV underscored that transformational climate finance is essential to African development, requiring a shift beyond project-based approaches towards stronger domestic fiscal institutions, regional financing mechanisms and national ownership of development priorities. Investment decisions should not be driven solely by financial returns.
- Climate finance effectiveness should be measured by the value created and retained in Africa, including industrialization, jobs, technology transfer, resilience and domestic revenue generation, while reducing losses through profit repatriation, debt servicing, illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and import dependence.
- Adaptation should be recognized as an investment rather than a cost. Evidence of its economic and social returns should inform planning, budgeting and multilateral development bank investment decisions to support long-term, inclusive and resilient development in Africa.

SESSION 6: ARTICLE 6 AND CARBON PRICING

- CCDA-XIV underscored that carbon pricing can support climate and development objectives when tailored to national circumstances and informed by robust cost-benefit analysis. Participants called for stronger coordination across carbon pricing,

carbon markets, trade policy and NDC implementation, supported by effective monitoring, reporting and verification systems to safeguard competitiveness, mobilize domestic capital and promote sustainable development.

- The Conference emphasized that carbon pricing should be introduced progressively and aligned with national development priorities, with revenues supporting clean technology, economic transformation, local value creation and employment.
- Operational and high-integrity carbon markets supported by robust frameworks, investable carbon assets and innovative finance can mobilize private capital while delivering tangible community benefits and climate-resilient development.

SESSION 7: SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND DATA GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AFRICA

- The Conference underscored the need to move from climate data generation to integrated, decision-ready climate-risk intelligence that informs policy, planning, investment and implementation. Participants emphasized linking climate risks to bankable investments, strengthening climate-finance accountability, and measuring resilience and development outcomes.
- CCDA-XIV recognized that Africa's climate-capacity challenge is primarily one of recognition, investment and resourcing rather than knowledge alone. Participants called for stronger African-led data governance, clear frameworks for data ownership, access and accountability, increased investment in climate research and innovation, and stronger African participation in global scientific processes.
- The Conference emphasized the value of indigenous and local knowledge, as well as gender-responsive science, including the meaningful participation of these groups as producers and users of climate information and knowledge.

- Participants underscored the critical role of science and technology in climate negotiations and implementation and called for stronger science-policy linkages to ensure timely, credible evidence informs decision-making, climate action and international cooperation.

SESSION 8: CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

- CCDA-XIV underscored the need for an integrated climate-information and early-warning value chain linking observation, data management, forecasting, modelling, communication, preparedness, anticipatory action, financing and response. Participants called for stronger national climate-service ecosystems that avoid fragmentation, strengthen last-mile communication and local innovation, and leverage digital technologies to support sector-specific decision-making, longer planning horizons and improved resilience.
- Participants emphasized closing Africa's climate-observation and data gaps through sustainable, African-owned observation infrastructure and data systems. The Conference called for expanding the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to all countries in need, including hydrological and marine observation networks, and stressed that climate and early-warning investments should allocate resources for the operation and maintenance of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). Participants further called for NMHSs to have regulatory authority over all observation stations, including public, private and donor-funded systems, to ensure data quality, common standards, interoperability and continuity.
- CCDA-XIV emphasized that climate information must evolve from generic forecasts to sector-specific, decision-oriented and impact-based services that translate climate intelligence into actionable insights and enable early action. The Conference recognized climate information services and early warning systems as strategic investments that reduce losses, protect lives and livelihoods, strengthen resilience and decision-making, and improve access to climate finance.

Participants stressed that reliable early warnings depend on sustained and calibrated observations and called for stronger linkages between climate intelligence, anticipatory action, investment and development outcomes.

- The Conference recognized Africa's progress under the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative while noting that many communities remain insufficiently protected. It called for accelerated investment, stronger forecasting and warning systems, and enhanced cross-border and cross-sectoral coordination to reach the last mile. The Conference encouraged Member States and development partners to implement the Addis Ababa Call to Action on Early Warnings in Africa, including its priorities on resource mobilization, country ownership, local knowledge, community engagement and capacity-building, and stressed that sustained institutional and financial support is essential to maintain and expand early-warning coverage beyond individual projects.

SESSION 9: JUST TRANSITIONS AND CRITICAL MINERALS GOVERNANCE

- CCDA-XIV underscored that African agency is essential to ensuring that critical minerals and the energy transition advance sustainable development, industrialization, energy security and inclusive growth. Participants called for stronger governance, regional integration, infrastructure investment and reforms to global governance frameworks to strengthen Africa's role in critical-mineral value chains.
- The Conference emphasized that a just energy transition must also be a just minerals transition, enabling mineral-producing countries to capture greater value, technology, revenues and decent jobs through local processing and beneficiation. Participants called for the Belém-Antalya-Addis Roadmap to integrate critical green mineral value chains into the global just-transition agenda.
- CCDA-XIV stressed that the energy and minerals transition should drive structural transformation rather than reinforce Africa's role as a raw-material exporter. Anchored in the Africa Mining Vision,

Africa Green Minerals Strategy and AfCFTA, participants called for leveraging mineral resources to develop regional value chains and green industries, supported by bankable projects, affordable capital and stronger investment mobilization mechanisms, while minimizing environmental and social costs borne by Africa.

- Africa's energy transition must be African-led and aligned with development priorities, placing energy access, affordability and reliability at its core while preserving policy space to expand industrialization, jobs and inclusive growth.

SESSION 10: CIRCULAR ECONOMY, RESOURCE-EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS AND CLIMATE ACTION

- CCDA-XIV underscored that the circular economy should be pursued as a context-specific development and competitiveness agenda that advances climate resilience, green industrialization, food and water security, economic diversification, decent jobs, green skills and local value creation.
- The Conference emphasized the integration of circular economy approaches into national development and climate frameworks, including NDCs and NAPs, supported by appropriate finance, infrastructure, innovation, stronger institutions and workforce development. These efforts should accelerate resource efficiency, reuse, recycling, sustainable production, circular value chains and the continental bioeconomy.
- Participants underscored the importance of developing a continental circular economy roadmap towards COP31, COP32 and beyond, led by the AUC, UNECA, AfDB, relevant UN entities and development partners. The roadmap should support the Africa Group of Negotiators and Member States in advancing circular economy and resource-efficiency policies that deliver climate action, resilience, jobs and sustainable industrialization.
- CCDA-XIV emphasized the accelerated implementation of the AU Continental Circular

Economy Action Plan (2024–2034) through National Circular Economy Roadmaps and greater use of the AfCFTA to develop regional value chains, including those for critical minerals.

- Participants underscored the importance of strengthening the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) as the AU-aligned platform for policy coordination and the Africa Circular Economy Facility (ACEF) as a catalytic mechanism for converting policy priorities into investment-ready opportunities that create jobs and advance Africa's climate and development objectives.

SESSION 11: ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE LEADERSHIP TOWARDS A GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

- CCDA-XIV underscored the need to recognize cities as primary destinations for climate-related mobility and displacement, and to plan for both climate impacts and the integration of displaced populations. Participants highlighted the importance of directing urban growth towards safe, serviced land and recognizing secure tenure, housing and basic services as essential adaptation infrastructure.
- The Conference emphasized the integration of climate mobility, housing and urban resilience into NDCs and NAPs, supported by clear institutional responsibilities and direct, predictable and adequate finance for cities and local governments that bear much of the displacement burden.
- CCDA-XIV advocated for a stronger global adaptation accountability framework that links national and international commitments to place-based implementation, urban planning, climate mobility, local government responsibilities and measurable resilience outcomes.

SESSION 12: AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS

- CCDA-XIV underscored the need to view agriculture not as a standalone production sector but as a climate-resilient agrifood system and a core pillar of climate action and negotiations. Participants emphasized that food security must remain a non-negotiable outcome of climate action and called for an integrated food-systems approach linking production, natural resources, markets, nutrition and livelihoods, with resilience guiding investment, policy and practice.
- The Conference stressed that climate action should strengthen, not undermine, food production, access and nutrition while addressing hunger, livelihoods, climate vulnerability and development. Participants called for the UNFCCC process to better reflect African food systems, farmers and agrifood value chains, and to support approaches aligned with African conditions and priorities.
- CCDA-XIV emphasized that delivery is the ultimate test of ambition, requiring costed implementation plans, capable institutions, skilled workforces, investable projects and accessible finance.

SESSION 13: CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA — FROM POLICY TO IMPLEMENTATION

- CCDA-XIV recognized climate change as a risk multiplier that exacerbates food, water and energy insecurity, resource competition, displacement and inequality, and emphasized the interlinkages between climate, peace, security and sustainable development.
- CCDA-XIV underscored that climate and conflict-risk analysis should be integrated into early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action, and that climate, peace and security considerations should be mainstreamed into NDCs, NAPs, DRR strategies, peacebuilding and national development planning.
- The Conference further affirmed the need for increased, predictable and accessible adaptation finance for fragile, conflict-affected and climate-vulnerable contexts, supported by conflict-sensitive investments that protect livelihoods, strengthen resilience, reduce climate risks and generate peace dividends.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As Africa enters a new era of climate leadership, shifting from participation to agency and from commitments to implementation, the Conference:

- **Called for** a coherent African climate agenda rooted in equity, sustainable development, accountability, African ownership and solutions aligned with the continent's priorities.
- **Called for** Africa to strengthen its climate agency by shaping global climate governance, mobilizing transformative finance, advancing science, technology and innovation, and pursuing resilient, inclusive development pathways.
- **Called for** Africa's road to COP31 and **COP32** to prioritize predictable, accessible and non-debt-creating climate finance; stronger national, regional and continental institutions; enhanced data, science, innovation and governance capacities; and scaled investment in adaptation, resilience and climate-risk management through climate information services, early warning systems and anticipatory action.
- **Called for** climate action to drive economic transformation by advancing regional integration, industrialization, productive capacity, sustainable critical-mineral development, circular and bioeconomy approaches, green industries and regional value chains, while strengthening food security, peace, human security, climate-resilient urban development and climate-informed planning.
- **Called for** just, inclusive, gender-responsive and context-specific transition pathways that safeguard Africa's development aspirations, create decent jobs and deliver tangible community benefits.
- **Called for** the establishment and operationalization of thematic working committees on climate finance and carbon markets; agriculture and food systems; just transitions and critical minerals; circular economy; adaptation and resilience; and climate change and development to advance implementation of the Conference outcomes and strengthen continuity between **COP31**, **CCDA-XV** and **COP32**.

- **Called for** the working committees to translate the Conference's key messages and recommendations into actionable priorities, identify policy, institutional and investment opportunities, monitor emerging developments, and prepare evidence-based inputs to inform Africa's engagement at **COP31, CCDA-XV** and **COP32**.

PROPOSITIONS

- CCDA-XIV established six thematic working committees on: (i) climate finance and carbon markets; (ii) agriculture and food systems; (iii) just transitions and critical minerals; (iv) circular economy; (v) adaptation and resilience; and (vi) climate information, climate change and development. The committees will serve as implementation and knowledge platforms to advance the Conference's recommendations, strengthen policy dialogue, and support Africa's climate priorities in the lead-up to **COP31, CCDA-XV** and **COP32**.
- The committees shall translate the Conference's key messages and recommendations into actionable priorities, identify policy, institutional and investment opportunities, monitor emerging developments, and integrate relevant outcomes from **COP31**, including the Belém–Antalya–Addis Roadmap. Their work will culminate in a consolidated report for consideration by **CCDA-XV**.
- The consolidated report shall assess progress on climate action in Africa, identify key challenges and opportunities, recommend priority actions, and propose an implementation framework to accelerate delivery of Africa's climate, development and resilience objectives.
- Each committee shall comprise a Chair, Alternate Chair, Secretary and six to ten technical experts, ensuring balanced representation across African regions, development contexts and climate priorities. Members shall serve until succeeding members are appointed, ensuring continuity, institutional memory and sustained follow-up.
- The ClimDev-Africa Secretariat shall provide coordination, technical support and knowledge management for the committees, facilitate collaboration among members and partners, and consolidate committee outputs into the report for **CCDA-XV**.
- CCDA-XIV **called on** ClimDev-Africa, partner institutions and development partners to mobilize the technical and financial resources required to support the committees' work and ensure effective implementation of their mandates.
- The committees shall serve as a continuity, accountability and delivery mechanism between **CCDA-XIV, COP31, CCDA-XV** and **COP32**, helping translate Africa's climate priorities and negotiation outcomes into concrete actions, investment priorities and measurable results.