



in collaboration with ClimDev-Africa partners



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIV)

Theme

*“From Pledges to Implementation: The Belem-
Antalya- Addis Roadmap”*

DATE	LOCATION
7-9 September 2026	Addis Ababa, UNECA

Organized by the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme



1. Introduction and justification

Africa has consistently played a constructive and influential role in advancing equitable and development-oriented climate action. Through its leadership on adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, and climate justice, the continent has helped shape global climate negotiations while advocating for the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Yet despite growing political momentum, implementation of the Paris Agreement continues to lag behind the scale and urgency of climate challenges, particularly in developing countries.

The outcomes of the Sixty-Fourth Sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), held in Bonn in June 2026, underscored both progress and persistent gaps across key areas of the climate agenda. Discussions advanced technical work on adaptation, transparency, Article 6, just transition, and preparations for COP31, while longstanding challenges remain regarding climate finance, implementation support, loss and damage, and the delivery of commitments under the first Global Stocktake (GST1). These developments reinforce the need for stronger implementation, enhanced international cooperation, and more effective support for developing countries.

Building on this momentum, the Seventh Africa Climate Talks (ACT7), convened in April 2026 under the theme "*Africa's Road to COP32: Urgency, Leadership and Action*" provided a strategic continental platform for consolidating Africa's priorities ahead of SB64, COP31 and COP32. ACT7 emphasized the imperative of moving from commitments to implementation through strengthened accountability, climate finance, adaptation, scientific integrity, trade and climate, and structural transformation. It also reinforced the need for a coordinated African approach that translates ambition into politically resilient and implementable actions, positioning the continent to exercise effective leadership in shaping the future of global climate governance.

At the same time, climate change is increasingly shaping broader development and economic priorities. The transition towards low-emission and climate-resilient economies is transforming trade and investment patterns, industrial development, energy systems, food systems, public health, and regional stability. It is also creating new opportunities to advance green industrialization, circular economy approaches, sustainable consumption and production, value addition to Africa's critical minerals, and resilient infrastructure. These transitions present both opportunities and challenges for Africa as countries seek to accelerate economic transformation, expand energy access, create decent jobs, strengthen resilience, and enhance long-term competitiveness in a rapidly changing global economy.

Although Africa contributes less than four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, it remains one of the regions most vulnerable to climate impacts. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, floods, cyclones, biodiversity loss, and climate-related health risks continue to undermine livelihoods, infrastructure, natural resources, and economic growth across the continent. Addressing these challenges requires significantly greater access to climate finance, technology

transfer, capacity development, and knowledge, while ensuring that global climate responses adequately reflect Africa's development priorities and circumstances.

Realizing Africa's climate and development ambitions will also depend on strengthening the use of science, data, technology, and innovation. Robust climate information systems, early warning services, Earth observation, research, and evidence-based policymaking are essential for improving climate risk management, guiding investments, tracking implementation progress, and supporting national and regional planning. Strengthening the science-policy interface will therefore be central to delivering effective, accountable, and transformative climate action across the continent.

The Fourteenth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIV), convened under the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, provides a strategic platform to translate Africa's climate ambitions into implementation and delivery. Convened after ACT7 and SB64 and ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and COP31, the conference will bring together policymakers, negotiators, researchers, development partners, financial institutions, civil society, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and the private sector to consolidate Africa's priorities, mobilize partnerships and investments, and strengthen coordinated action towards COP31 while laying the strategic foundations for an African-led COP32.

Under the theme "***From Pledges to Implementation: The Belem- Antalya- Addis Roadmap***" CCDA-XIV will focus on accelerating implementation of global and national climate commitments, strengthening policy coherence across climate and development priorities, promoting science-driven and evidence-based decision-making, and fostering partnerships that support resilient, inclusive, and low-emission development. The conference will culminate in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Climate Action Messages, providing Africa's consolidated policy priorities, implementation recommendations, and strategic messages for COP31 while establishing a shared continental roadmap towards COP32.

2. Why CCDA-XIV?

CCDA-XIV provides a timely platform to bridge global climate negotiations and implementation on the ground. It will help translate the outcomes of SB64 into coordinated African priorities for COP31 while advancing practical solutions that accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement and the first Global Stocktake (GST1). At the same time, the conference will strengthen partnerships, mobilize investments, promote science-informed policymaking, and foster a shared continental vision that positions climate action as a catalyst for Africa's economic transformation and prepares the continent for an ambitious and impactful COP32. Critically, CCDA-XIV is one of the forums where technical evidence base and political consensus underpinning Africa's Common Negotiating Position built, so that African negotiators enter COP31 with positions that are unified, well-substantiated and deliverable.

3. CCDA-XIV objectives

The overall objective of CCDA-XIV is to strengthen Africa's climate leadership by advancing coordinated policy, partnerships, investments, and implementation that accelerate climate-resilient and low-emission development, shape Africa's strategic engagement at COP31, and lay the foundation for an ambitious and African-led COP32.

Specific Objectives

- Strengthen Africa's engagement in the global climate agenda by assessing the implications of SB64, defining priorities for COP31, and informing preparations towards COP32.
- Accelerate implementation of global and national climate commitments by promoting practical solutions, investment opportunities, and partnerships that advance the Paris Agreement, GST1 outcomes, NDCs 3.0, National Adaptation Plans, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and Article 6.
- Promote integrated climate and development pathways by strengthening policy coherence across economic transformation, trade, energy, industrialization, food systems, health, biodiversity, peace and security, and social inclusion.
- Foster just, inclusive and sustainable transitions, ensuring value-added development of Africa's critical minerals.
- Strengthen science, innovation, and accountability for climate action by enhancing the use of climate data, digital technologies, early warning systems, and evidence to support informed decision-making and implementation.
- Mobilize strategic partnerships and collective action to enhance Africa's leadership, resource mobilization, and coordinated delivery of climate and development priorities beyond COP31 towards COP32.
- Support the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in consolidating a unified, evidence-based African Common Negotiating Position for COP31, and ensure that CCDA-XIV outputs are politically resilient and directly implementable rather than purely aspirational.

4. Expected outcomes

CCDA-XIV is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

1. A coherent African policy agenda and strategic messages are agreed to strengthen Africa's engagement at COP31 and guide preparations for COP32.
2. Actionable policy recommendations and implementation pathways are identified to accelerate delivery of the Paris Agreement and other continental climate and development priorities.
3. Greater consensus on integrated climate and development pathways is achieved, positioning climate action as a driver of resilient growth, industrial transformation, food and water security, energy access, health, biodiversity conservation, and social inclusion.

4. Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange among science-policy-practice communities.
5. A unified African Common Position, developed with and validated by the AGN, ready to guide Africa's engagement at COP31.
6. A strengthened continental platform for climate leadership and coordinated action.

5. Conference deliverables

CCDA-XIV will deliver:

1. The CCDA-XIV strategic messages, articulating Africa's common priorities and recommendations for COP31 and strategic directions towards COP32.
2. Summary report capturing the main discussions and policy recommendations that support implementation of the Paris Agreement, GST1 outcomes, NDCs 3.0 and National Adaptation Plans.
3. A strengthened network of partnerships among governments, regional institutions, development partners, research organizations, civil society and the private sector to advance implementation.