PARTNER STATEMENT BY AFREXIMBANK AT CCDA-XIV. SEPTEMBER 7, 2026. ADDIS ABABA

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, fellow partners, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed.

On behalf of the Afreximbank, I am pleased to welcome you to the 14th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa.

CCDA-XIV is an important expression of our shared commitment to advancing coordinated, African-led responses to climate change and development. Its theme—*From Pledges to Implementation: The Belem-Antalya-Addis Roadmap* —captures the challenge before us.

For Africa, implementation is not simply about meeting climate targets. It is about whether climate action can protect livelihoods, improve food and energy security, strengthen economies and create opportunities for our people.

It is also about agency.

For too long, Africa's role in the global climate conversation has been framed principally by its vulnerability and its needs. Those realities cannot be ignored. Africa has contributed the least to climate change but continues to bear some of its most severe consequences.

But vulnerability is not the full African story.

Africa also has knowledge, institutions, natural resources, growing markets and a young population capable of contributing solutions to the global climate challenge. The continent must therefore participate not only as a recipient of decisions and support, but as an architect of the systems through which the global transition will be delivered.

This requires us to confront a fundamental question: can the transition succeed if climate policy and development policy continue to be treated separately?

For Africa, the answer must be no.

A transition that restricts energy access, limits industrialisation or creates new barriers to trade will not be sustainable. Neither will a transition that depends on Africa's minerals while leaving value addition, technology and jobs elsewhere.

The global climate framework must provide room for different pathways, reflecting countries' levels of development, energy needs, technological capabilities and historical responsibilities.

This is particularly important as climate considerations increasingly shape trade and investment. New standards and carbon-related measures are changing how goods are produced and traded. Africa must help shape these arrangements so that they support environmental objectives without closing off opportunities for development.

The African Continental Free Trade Area gives the continent a platform to respond collectively. Through the AfCFTA, African countries can build regional value chains, expand markets for climate-compatible products and develop more resilient systems of production and trade.

The same principle should guide the development of Africa's critical minerals. The continent should not repeat a model in which its resources are extracted and exported with limited transformation at home. The global transition must also support African processing, manufacturing, technological development and employment.

Finance remains central to all of this. But the discussion must move beyond headline commitments.

The real test is whether finance can reach viable projects and deliver results. This means combining different forms of capital, supporting project preparation and institutional capacity, and using climate information and evidence to identify risks and guide investment.

This is the logic that guides Afreximbank's own Climate Strategy. Anchored in the African Union's Agenda 2063, the strategy supports member states in transitioning to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies while balancing industrial growth with sustainable practices. It rests on three pillars — climate finance actions to bridge the adaptation and mitigation financing gap, stronger climate risk management, and climate advocacy and partnerships — and carries a clear commitment: to direct 5 per cent of the Bank's long-term loans to climate finance by 2030, with 70 per cent of that channelled to adaptation, in line with the continent's priorities on adaptation, loss and damage.

The strategy is being given effect through the Bank's Sustainable Finance Programme — green loans, sustainability-linked loans, and green trade credit guarantees that de-risk trade in green goods — and is already visible in its flagship transactions. The DRC–Zambia battery value-chain special economic zones — a project of close to USD 3 billion, developed with UNECA and other partners — embody the beneficiation this continent has too often gone without, transforming Africa's own cobalt and copper into batteries and electric vehicles rather than exporting them raw. Alongside renewable energy financings such as solar power in South Sudan and Mozambique, and a widening focus that now spans energy security, food security and localised manufacturing, these show what a trade-led, AfCFTA-anchored transition can look like in practice.

Reliable climate data and early-warning systems are therefore not peripheral to implementation. They help governments plan, communities prepare, businesses adapt and financial institutions make better decisions. They are part of the infrastructure required for resilient development.

As we prepare for COP31 and look towards COP32 in Africa, the continent must bring forward more than a statement of needs. It must bring ideas, practical solutions and partnerships capable of improving climate outcomes both for Africa and for the wider world.

As a ClimDev-Africa partner, Afreximbank looks forward to contributing to this collective effort and to supporting a climate transition that strengthens resilience while advancing Africa's development and economic transformation.

Thank you.