



TITLE

African Islands States Climate Commission Ministerial Meeting: *Transitioning to a climate resilient future*

Organisers

This event is organized by the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on behalf of the African Islands States Climate Commission (AISCC), representing the Governments of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Union of Comoros, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Guinea Bissau, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, and the United Republic of Tanzania for Zanzibar in partnership with Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and AOSIS.

Background and Context

African Island States face significant vulnerabilities and challenges due to the impacts of climate change and climate variability. These impacts encompass various environmental changes, such as climate-induced cyclones and storms, sea level rise, beach erosion, and floods. These island nations need substantial support in terms of finance, technology, and institutional capacity building to effectively assess the economic losses and damages caused by climate change. They also require assistance in designing and implementing appropriate strategies for mitigation, adaptation, and recovery.

While African Island States share common characteristics like insularity, geographical dispersion, and relatively small populations, their vulnerability to and capacity to respond to climatic shocks differ significantly. These differences are mainly influenced by their resource endowments and historical development trajectories. Despite these challenges, island nations are actively taking measures to address the threats posed by climate change. They are striving to adapt their economies and reduce the risks associated with their limited land resources, exposure to a wide range of climate-related hazards, and the vulnerability of their social conditions. These efforts encompass a range of initiatives, from sustainable resource management and coastal protection measures to the development of renewable energy sources and community-based resilience-building projects.

African Island States face grave threats from climate change, and addressing these challenges is a complex endeavor. It requires international cooperation, financial support, technology transfer, and tailored solutions that account for the unique circumstances of each island nation. Despite their vulnerabilities, these nations are actively engaged in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, demonstrating their commitment to securing a sustainable future in the face of environmental adversity through initiatives such as the African Island States Climate Commission.

This side event follows up the AISCC Ministerial Meeting ‘Towards a Blue and Resilient Future’ organized during the Africa Climate Summit, last September in Nairobi, Kenya. It gathers ministers and experts of the AISCC member states and strategic partners to advance operationalisation of AISCC and discuss opportunities and synergies, its priorities and strategies, as well as to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of cooperation amongst the AISCC member states. The event counts with a high-level panel with ministers to discuss the role of the AISCC as a catalyser of innovative solutions for a climate resilient future. It will be followed by a panel with strategic partners and donors that will share their initiatives bringing opportunities and commitments for a climate-resilient development pathway in AISCC countries. The event will conclude with the signature of the AISCC MoU and the closing remarks.

Objectives of the event

- Advance African islands' climate agenda through the AISCC as a coordinating entity that support the Island States.
- Share to a wider audience the work of the African Island States Climate Commission
- Bring together Ministers, experts and relevant partners to accelerate the operationalisation of the African Island States Climate Commission
- Strengthen the voice of African Island State in the climate negotiations

Draft Programme

Welcoming (16’)

- Dr. Kevin Kanina Kariuki, Vice-President, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- H.E. Antonio Pedro, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary a.i., Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- H.E. Amb. Josefa L. Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)
- H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles and Chair of the AISCC

Ministerial Panel on the role of the AISCC as a catalyser of innovative solutions for a climate resilient future (35’)

Ministers from:

- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Union of Comoros
- Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- Republic of Guinea Bissau
- Republic of Madagascar
- Republic of Mauritius
- Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
- United Republic of Tanzania for Zanzibar

Moderator: H.E. Flavien Joubert, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change, Republic

of Seychelles

Advancing opportunities and commitments for a climate-resilient development pathway in AISCC countries (20')

Panellists from:

- Green Climate Fund
- UNECA Technology Climate Change, and Natural Resource Management Division
- Adaptation Fund
- UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa
- AOSIS
- African Development Bank
- AUDA/NEPAD

Moderator: Prof. Vélayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Commission

Interaction with participants (6')

Moderator: Mme. Gina Bonne, Charge de Mission, Indian Ocean Commission

Signature of an MoU for cooperation amongst the AISCC members (5')

Closing statement and way forward (8')

- *UN High Representative for SIDS*
- *H.E. Flavien Joubert, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change, Republic of Seychelles*

Key messages

“African Island Nations are actively engaged in the global climate agenda and the African Islands Climate Commission in ready to support this endeavour.”

Links to background documentation:

- Port Louis Recommendations
- [Beau-Vallon Outcome Document](#)
- [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#)
- [Santa Maria Call to Action](#)

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