

37TH AFRICA UNION SUMMIT SIDE-EVENT

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON COP28 REFLECTIONS AND 2024 STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 12TH & 13TH, 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

CONCEPT NOTE



1. BACKGROUND

The thirty-seventh Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union under the theme *“building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, qualitative, lifelong and relevant learning for Africa”*, takes place in a polarized geopolitical context where countries are facing social, political, economic, security, health and environmental upheavals, all converging to test international solidarity in the times of calamities, and the tenacity of Institutions such as African Union and the United Nations.

For the African continent, these crises have been compounded by the climate crisis, deepening debt burdens, uncontrollable food-and-cost-of-living conundrum, energy crisis, the extra-constitutional overthrow of governments and constraining AU’s ability to respond, thus heightening inequality and imperiling human rights.

Though happening further away from the continent, the ripple effects of the Ukraine-Russian War and that of Israel-Palestine have had a tremendous impact on Africa’s economic, socio-political and diplomatic interactions, and demonstrated how global crises are interconnected.

The prevailing climate crisis, the debt crisis and the fragility of many countries in Africa have interacted to fundamentally alter their ability to fulfil their human rights obligations and undermine the enjoyment of economic and social rights. As a foundation for economic sustainability, education is essential in fostering climate resilience (alongside other crises) by promoting climate/environmental literacy, including empowering individuals and communities to make informed decisions. Obviously, climate change has affected education, while education, similarly, can affect the efforts to tackle climate change – and thus the relevance of the side-event to the 2024 theme of the African Union Summit.

In addition to equipping people - especially the youth and children - with knowledge and skills to tackle climate change, education is also crucial for inspiring sustainable livelihoods, fostering innovation and influencing transformative policy options necessary in the transition towards low-carbon, carbon, climate-resilient, inclusive development pathways.

Addis Ababa will be a key moment to reflect on Africa’s conversations on climate change throughout 2023, including the Africa Climate Summit, which was mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State, and hosted jointly by the African Union Commission and the Government of Kenya. As the flagship activity of the year, the Summit elevated African voice in international discourse on climate change, and ostensibly rallied African people around a unified voice, manifested by the Nairobi declaration, which triumphantly fed into the African Position to UNFCCC-COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

But despite an apparently strongly mobilized Africa and a common position backed by strong voice by leaders,

issues responsive to the continent's realities, aspirations and imperatives of climate justice remain contentious in UNFCCC negotiations, and COP28 was not different. It is thus important to look back, assess our effectiveness in navigating the global geopolitical interactions, interrogate whether all investments put into the mobilization towards COP28 were worth it, draw the lessons and chart the way forward for 2024 and beyond.

2. THE SIDE-EVENT

In addition to the AU's main theme revolving around education, the coup d'états and security hotspots across Africa¹ and Israel/ Palestine, Russia/Ukraine war and financial crisis are likely to dominate the Summit, the COP28 and climate action is one of the most critical areas that is anticipated to take centre stage. These conversations should not be viewed as separate, but as subjects that are all inextricably linked, especially with the agenda 2063, whose implementation is crucial for achieving the continent's economic advancement, environmental sustainability social development, political stability and regional integration.

The event follows the practice of strategic convenings by ClimDev partners, which facilitates participants' interactions with key stakeholders attending the AU Summits, and positions climate action as a key issue of focus in the competing priorities in the Summit. It is our conviction that other ambitious sustainable development global strategies, including Agenda 2030 of the United Nations, ought to remain complimentary, and should be driven by the region's resource local knowledge systems, with Africa taking leadership of its development aspirations and integrating knowledge and practices from external forces ignorant of the continent's context.

Coming at the critical moment of reflections when our Africa's unified position is facing the test as demonstrated by the inability of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) to elect a Chair and the dispersal of various African countries into competing global blocs, this event is crucial in galvanizing critical groups – especially government representatives – to exchange views and address the nagging question of disjointedness when pursuing Africa's interests in international dialogue on climate action.

The AGN's crisis of leadership is a manifestation of the concerns raised over years on the deteriorating relationship among African negotiators, whose efforts have deliberately been fragmented over years based on language, geographical and "identity" basis. Calls have remained louder on Africa's need to remain unified, with the CAHOSCC providing political leadership, while the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), should step in and consistently provide guidance to the technical experts under African Group of Negotiators (AGN).

¹ Three countries, Mali, Chad, Guinea, Niger, Gabon and Burkina Faso are under suspension by AU military juntas, while Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia are gripped by internal and cross-border conflicts, raising concerns among observers on this spiraling trend of security and democratic meltdown.

On their part, Non-State Actors such as the civil society, private sector, UN Agencies, youth and women should rally behind the African position while holding governments accountable.

This will only be achieved through robust engagement, not only by convenings during strategic moments like AU Summits, but also outreach to strategic individuals and institutions relevant to the goal and objectives we seek to achieve.

The Forum will be one of the efforts to map out Actors, build trust and continuously reach out to each other based on shared vision on positioning Africa as a strategic Partner in the inevitable transition to low-carbon, ecologically-just, climate-resilient future.

3. OBJECTIVES

1. To exchange perspectives, and discuss key outcomes of UNFCCC-COP28, reflect on the Africa Climate Summit and assess Africa's wins and misses in 2023.
2. To draw recommendations and contribute to the Climate Change Decisions of CAHOSCC and the thirty-seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union
3. To extend outreach and interact with the delegates and political leaders in ways that reinforce and unify African stakeholders' collective effort in shaping and influencing the global discourse on climate action.
4. To discuss and build consensus on the next steps towards, during and beyond COP29².

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Deeper internalization of COP28 outcomes and implications for Africa, status of the continent in global climate discourse processes, and collective way forward for 2024 and beyond.
2. Recommendations and key messages to CAHOSCC and AU Assembly drawn.
3. A deepened appreciation of the political economy of climate Action in Africa, the role of strategic African stakeholders and how this can be strengthened;
4. Enhanced networking and synergy across geographies - a vibrant platform for 2024 interactions

² The worrying trend of fragmentation of Africa's efforts has revived a debate on the push for an inclusive Platform – such as ClimDev-Africa Initiative, and how it can practically bring balance in terms of regions, sectors, thematic areas and gender, and underpinning the centrality of African people, both as victims of climate change and stewards of critical ecosystem pillars. The question is then whether ClimDev Initiative in its current architecture can stand the test of time to cure the sick situation in Africa

5. FORUM STRUCTURE:

The Forum will be organized in distinct themes with each session having clear thematic outlooks and focus of conversations. To enrich the experience of participants while allowing a latitude to cover significantly more details, the Forum will start with the high-level session which will feature key opinion and political leaders. This will be followed by scenario setting, contextual analysis and technical sessions where Experts and representatives drawn from various thematic areas and sectors will share their perspectives. Plenary sessions and breakout groups will ensure views from all participants are captured.

6. TARGET PARTICIPANTS:

- ◆ Government and intergovernmental representatives
- ◆ Non-State Actors (NGOs, Indigenous Groups, Women, Youth, Trade Unions, Farmers Groups, PWDS, Pastoralists, etc)
- ◆ Private sector
- ◆ Experts

7. ORGANISERS

- ◆ African Union Commission
- ◆ Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- ◆ UN Economic Commission for Africa
- ◆ African Development Bank

8. PROGRAMME

Nb. All times are GMT+3 (East African time)

Time	Session	Session Chair
12 February 2024 - Day 1		
08:00-09:00	Registration	
Session 1: Welcome and Official opening		
09:00-10:00	<p>HIGH LEVEL OPENING STATEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance ◆ Dr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank ◆ Dr. Nassim Oulmane, Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa ◆ H.E. Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy, African Union Commission <p>OFFICIAL OPENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Remarks by Hon. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia ◆ Key note speech by H.E. Dr. Fitsum Assefa, Minister of Planning and Development, FDRE & Chair of AMCEN Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia <p>STATEMENT FROM PARTNERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Joachim Beijmo, Head of Regional Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden, Ethiopia ◆ Paula Schindeler, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands ◆ Ruslan Nasibov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia ◆ H.E Mohamed Salem Al-Rashedi, UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia 	<p>Session Chair: Harsen Nyambe, Director, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), AUC</p>

Time	Session	Session Chair
10:00-10:30	<p>PHOTO SESSION</p> <p>COFFEE BREAK</p> <p>Press conference – Plenary Room</p>	
<p>Session 2: Scenario setting, context analysis, deep-dive into key 2023 highlights, including Africa Climate Summit, CCDA XI and COP28 outcomes</p>		
10:30-12:30	<p>Wrap-up of the year under review (10 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Arick Muvundika, Ag. Chair, African Group of Negotiators (AGN) ◆ Dr. Augustine Njamnshi, Chair, Technical and Political Affairs, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance ◆ Joseph Nganga, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Climate Summit 2023 ◆ Dr. Pacifica Ogolla, Director, Climate Change Directorate, Government of Kenya <p>Panelists (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. James Murombedzi, Officer-in-Chief, Climate Change & Coordinator, Africa Climate Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa ◆ Mwanahamisi Singano, Advisor, Women Environmental Development Organisation ◆ Dr. Richard Munang, Head of Global Monitoring Systems and Early Warning, Environment Unit, UNEP ◆ Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, EALA MP and Chair, African Parliamentarians for Climate Action ◆ Dr. Cromwel Lukorito (Chair IPCC WG2) ◆ Dr. Susan Chomba, Director, Vital Ecosystems, World Resources Institute (WRI) ◆ Lucky Abeng, Research Lead, Climate Justice <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Session Co-Chairs: Dr. Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, African Climate Policy Centre, ECA & Leah Wanambwa, Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change AUC</p>
12:30-1:30pm	LUNCH BREAK	

Time	Session	Session Chair
Session 3: Technical expert and thematic sessions to unpack the outcomes of COP28 (Africa Position, key outcomes at COP28 and implications for Africa)		
1:30 – 3:00pm	<p>Session 3. a: Key outcomes on adaptation, Global Goal on Adaptation and Adaptation finance</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Kidanemariam Tiruneh, Technical Advisor, Global Water Partnership - Africa ◆ Dr. Vhalinavho Khavhagali, Advisor, Africa Europe Foundation ◆ Kouthoulm Omari, Special Advisor, Africa Adaptation Initiative ◆ Dr. George Wamukoya, Team Leader of Africa Group of Negotiators Experts Support & Lead Negotiator on Agriculture, ◆ Nbou Mohammed, Climate Change Advisor, United Cities & Local Governments, Africa ◆ Tsaone Makwatso, Young AGN Negotiator on Agriculture <p>Panelists for a dedicated session of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chakera McIntosh, Regional Director Africa, Global Health Strategies (GHS) ◆ WHO Representative, Ethiopia ◆ Ruth Ngechu, Global Director of Advocacy and Engagements, Pathfinder International ◆ Dr. Sidielmoctar, IFMSA, Mauritania ◆ Dr. Martin Muchangi, Director, Population, Health & Environment, AMREF ◆ Dr. Joanes Atela, Convenor, Africa Research Impact Network (ARIN) <p>PLENARY</p>	<p>Co-chairs: Dr. James Kinyangi, Africa Development Bank; Benson Simba, Head of PMU, PACJA</p>

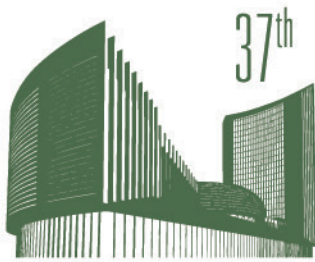
Time	Session	Session Chair
3:00 – 4:00pm	<p>Session 3.b: Key Outcomes on Loss and Damage</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Richard Sherman, Co-chair, Transitional committee on Loss and Damage ◆ Julius Ngoma, Coordinator, Civil Society Network on Climate Change, Malawi ◆ Amjad Abashar, Africa Director, UNDRR; ◆ Obed Koringo, Policy Advisor, Care International ◆ Yared Deme, World Resources Institute ◆ Mohapi Mpona Eusebia, Youth for Climate Justice ◆ Ayan Harare, Climate Justice Lead, Oxfam in Africa 	<p>Chair: Dr. James Murombedzi, Officer-in-Chief, Climate Change & Coordinator, Africa Climate Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa</p>
4:00 – 4:30pm	Health and Tea Break	
4:30 – 5:00pm	<p>Session 3.c: Taking Global stock take forward:</p> <p>A perspective on implications of outcome decisions of COP28 and our thematic engagements by Mwanahamisi Singano, Programme Manager, WEDO</p> <p>Plenary Interactions</p>	<p>Chair: Dr. Sam Ogallah, Senior Climate Change Advisor, AUC</p>

Time	Session	Session Chair
13 February 2024 - Day 2		
Time	Session	Session chairs
8:30 – 9:30am	<p>Session 3.d: Key Outcomes on Mitigation and Just and orderly Transition (Energy, Transitioning away from fossil fuels)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Caroline Tagwireyi, Senior Mitigation Officer, AUC-SEBE ◆ Prof. Fadhel Kaboub, President, Global Institute of Sustainable Prosperity ◆ Thomas Opande, Energy Expert, WWF ◆ Eugene Nforngwa, Thematic Lead- Energy & Just Transition, African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access ◆ Elizabeth Chege, Energy Efficiency and Cooling Specialists, Sustainable Energy for All ◆ Dr. Dorsouma Alhamndou, Division Manager, Department of Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB 	<p>Chair: Dr. Kazaura Kamugisha, Director Energy, AUC</p>
9:30 -10:30am	<p>Session 3.e: Key Outcomes on Climate Finance</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Martha Bekele, Delivery, Quality & Impact Lead, Development Initiative, Ethiopia ◆ Desire Assogbavi, Francophone Africa Director, ONE Campaign ◆ Chiheny Kangara, Green Climate Fund (GCF) ◆ Peter Odhengo, Coordinator, AFDAN, Kenya ◆ Dr. Olufunso Somorin, Principal Regional Officer, AfDB ◆ Veronica Jakarasi, CEO, Institute of Sustainability and Development Finance ◆ Fredrick Mao, Climate Finance, AUC ◆ Nicholas Abuya, Global Programme Resilience Advisor, Christian Aid <p>PLENARY</p>	<p>Chair: Harsen Nyambe, Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), AUC</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break	

Time	Session	Session Chair
Session 4: Other critical issues of Significant Relevance to Governance of Climate change		
11:00 – 1:00pm	<p>Session 4.b: Critical Minerals - securing Africa's interest in critical minerals sector</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Marit Y Kitaw, Interim Director, Africa Minerals Development Centre ◆ Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, PACJA ◆ Hon. Collins Nzovu, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia ◆ Prof. Kevin Chika Urama, Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, AfDB ◆ Dr. Richard Munang, Head of Global Monitoring Systems and Early Warning, Environment Unit, UNEP ◆ Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy, Namibia ◆ Jack Kimani, CEO, Climate Action Platform (CAP-A) <p>Plenary</p>	<p>Chair: Dr. Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, African Climate Policy Centre, ECA</p>
1:00 – 2:00pm	Lunch Break	
2:00 – 3:00pm	<p>Session 4.b: Securing land and natural resource rights for climate resilient in the face of carbon markets</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Yemi Katerere, Independent Environmental and Policy Expert, African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance ◆ Daisy Mukarakate, Regional Climate Policy Advisor, UNDP, Addis Ababa ◆ Emmanuel Siakilo, Senior Advisor; Climate Change-AUC ◆ Susan Otieno, Country Director, Action Aid International Kenya ◆ Dr. Ezekiel Lesmore, Director of Programs, All Africa Conference of Churches ◆ Samante Anne, Programmes Manager, MPIDO 	<p>Chair: Charles Mwangi, Head of Programs and Research, PACJA</p>

Time	Session	Session Chair
Session 5: The Road Ahead: Concretizing our collective influence plan		
3:00 – 3:40pm	<p>Session 5.a: Key pillars of our common plan of action for 2024 and COP29</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, African Climate Policy Centre, ECA ◆ Dr. James Kinyangi, Africa Development Bank ◆ Dr. Kazaura Kamugisha, Director Energy, AUC; ◆ Leah Wanambwa, Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change AUC 	Philip Kilonzo , Head of Policy, Advocacy & Communications, PACJA
3:40 – 4:00pm	Health Break	
4:00 – 5:00 pm	<p>Session 5.b. Adoption of our Recommendations for sharing with Africa Union Heads of States and other Pan African Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Presentation of the Recommendation by Leah Wanambwa, Senior Policy Officer, Climate Change AUC <p>Closing panel session by leadership of CLIMDEV Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, PACJA ◆ Dr. James Kinyangi, Africa Development Bank; ◆ Dr. Nassim Oulmane, Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa ◆ Harsen Nyambe, Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), AUC <p>Closure</p>	Augustine Njamnshi , Chair, Political & Technical, PACJA Board

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ORDINARY
SESSION OF
THE AU
ASSEMBLY

ADDIS ABABA,
ETHIOPIA
17-18 FEBRUARY
2024

ClimDev-Africa



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Sweden
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