AFRICA’S CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2022-2032)

THEMATIC AREA: Strengthening governance and policy

Context

Climate policy at a national level presents unique multi-scalar governance challenges by requiring the co-ordination between different spheres of government and non-state actors, across multiple sectors of society. It is also multi-dimensional, centring on different objectives, which can impact other developmental priorities. For this reason, the evolution of climate policy requires high levels of participation and coordination amongst ministries, spheres of government, non-state actors and citizens. Capacitated institutions with the requisite mandates to implement policy and facilitate well-coordinated climate action are necessary drivers.

Priority action areas

Enhanced climate policy, multi-scalar governance and institutional coordination:

- Continued development, review and update of climate change policies and implementation plans.
- Strengthen institutional structures for policy implementation.
Regional flagship initiatives

Climate Research for Development (CR4D) for Africa is a regional initiative that was launched to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support to development planning in Africa. Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) aims at generating new climate science focused on Africa, and to ensure that this science has an impact on development across the continent.

The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) was developed in response to enhance action on adaptation and addresses loss and damage in four key pillars of work:

1. enhancing climate information services,
2. strengthening policies and institutions,
3. enhancing concrete action on the ground, and
4. facilitating access to and mobilising additional climate finance and investment for adaptation and addressing loss and damage.

Coordinated regional climate action:
- Strengthen coordination among the African Union and its structures, as well as key regional partners, in supporting Member States to achieve climate action.
- Strengthen Africa’s common position in global climate negotiations.

Governance solutions to address the climate-conflict nexus:
- Build the capacity of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture and institutions to analyse climate-related peace and security risks.
- Strengthen the capacity of Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop more integrated responses to climate-related security risks.
- Strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities to engage in national climate policy processes.

Anticipatory governance and long-term planning:
- Increase the robustness of climate policy processes.
- Consider the assumptions that underpin climate change plans.
- Move to a more collective process when developing Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and long-term policies.

- Cultivate robust climate change legislative frameworks.
- Improved multi-level governance arrangements, equitable partnerships and coordination platforms for dialogue and learning.