



# 6th Africa Climate Talks & SDGs Forum

**Theme: Financing Climate Actions for Sustainable Green Growth and Development in Africa: A Justice Issue**

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Kampala, Uganda

## Concept Note



## 1. Background

An outcome of the first earth conference, the UNFCCC 1992 World Summit on Sustainable Development, also referred to as the Rio Earth Summit founding document, “Our Common Future” was characterized by shared concerns about the global environment and the need for collaborative efforts to respond to the emerging challenges of Global Environmental Change. It captured the commonality of global environmental concerns and the spirit of shared responsibility for the earth's future. The Rio Principles also reflected and sought to build on the shared concerns, notably, the Principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). This principle has, however, not been honored by the global north, a sphere most responsible for the climate crisis.

Under the theme of the year, ***“Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”*** the Thirty-eighth (38<sup>th</sup>) Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government was held in an atmosphere where climate governance is dominated by contestations particularly between developed and developing countries. These contestations are reflected in the struggles over the interpretations of the various provisions of the Convention, the difficulties of constructing binding agreements on many issues such as financing, adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and the increasing volatility as evidenced at the recent UNFCCC COP29 in Azerbaijan. The call for justice and reparation for those who least contributed to climate change but bearing the brunt of its impact continued to be ignored from one COP to the other over the years, negating the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacity (CBDR-C).

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Delivering the benefits of a new climate economy requires ambitious action across key economic systems, creating the conditions for the phaseout of coal and rapid scale-up of renewables in the energy sector; investing in shared, electric, and low-carbon transport in cities; scaling up sustainable food and land use systems, including forest landscape restoration; targeting investment to resilient water infrastructure; and reducing emissions from key industrial value chains, such as plastic. However, if the world fails to step up climate action, continuing on our current climate trajectory could force 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. Africa is the most-exposed region to the adverse effects of climate change despite contributing the least to global warming.

The region is already disproportionately feeling the impacts related to a changing climate. Devastating cyclones affected 3 million people in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe in the spring of 2018. If fairness was the only goal, the impetus to act would lie solely with developed economies. Make no mistake, the big emitters absolutely must step up their domestic climate action, and quickly. But building the new climate economy is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that every African nation should prioritize and claim a stake in.

The role of justice and reparations in the struggle against climate change is multifaceted especially in the context of loss and damage, and climate justice. This can make many

positive environmental changes, reshaping its modes of functioning, governing policies and management processes. This event presents a critical opportunity for the continent to reflect on key outcomes of UNFCCC-COP29 and what this portends for Africa, including strategic preparations for the upcoming Africa Climate Summit, the UNFCCC- COP30, which will be held in Belem, Brazil, as well as the general discussions, decisions and principles of the G20 meetings, with South Africa assuming the Presidency in 2025.

COP29, which was billed as a climate finance COP, did not live up to the expectations of many. The ultimate decision on the New Collective Quantified Finance Goal (NCQG) settled on USD 300 billion per year up to 2035, a verdict which is way below the USD 1.3 trillion quantum that the Africa Group of Negotiators was pushing for. This outcome is a clear indication of lack of good will and seriousness with which we need to address the ever-elusive question of climate finance.

The call to demand a global accountability framework that ensures that the most polluting countries and corporations are compelled to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement and beyond is important now, more than ever before. We need to ensure that finance for climate action is not just pledged but delivered—in quality and quantity required to address especially the adaptation needs of the vulnerable. The trillions of dollars needed to adapt, mitigate, and repair should not be held hostage by bureaucratic delays or empty promises as we have experienced at COP29.

### **Rationale**

UNFCCC- COP29, with some disappointing outcomes especially on finance, loss and damage, just transition and adaptation, is now behind, but this only makes the beginning of another torturous journey to Belem, COP30, a journey that we must embark on together. We must strengthen our African solidarity and build partnerships between people, governments, civil society, religious groups and grassroots movements.

The year 2025 presents clear opportunities for our influence, including the Turkey; World/ IMF annual meeting October; Climate finance COP in Paris; G20 convening in South Africa among others. These global events are critical in shaping climate space developments and, indeed the outcome of COP30 in Belem. The dialogue process around climate finance within the context of the quantum arrived at in Baku must be embedded in these major convening; of critical importance is the agenda on capitalizing loss and damage considering that the global community will indulge in conversation on reparations in 2025.

## **2. The Post COP29 Outcome and Strategy for COP30**

The UNFCCC COPs are the most important climate decision-making forum. Their agreements and commitments can potentially have huge impacts on the people most affected by climate change in the global south. However, for many stakeholders and policymakers who don't directly work in the climate space or who do not find opportunities to attend these fora, it can be challenging to understand which decisions

are most relevant, the implications these can have for crisis-affected communities, and the kind of interventions required for the continent.

Following on previous practices of strategic convenings by ClimDev-Africa 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, this event aims to unpack the key outcomes of COP29 and its implications for Africa. 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, anchored on our cultural heritage, with Africa taking leadership of its development aspirations and integrating knowledge and practices from external forces ignorant of the continent's context.

During this session, the speakers will highlight what they regard as the key successes and remaining challenges after COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024, focusing on what this means for the continent, including relevant Climate Charter and commitments. The Baku's COP has been referred to as the 'finance COP', focusing on negotiating the New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG), to replace the current goal of a collective \$100 billion per year of climate finance provided and/or mobilized by developed countries to developing nations, the Article 6 outcome, adaptation, mitigation, global goal on adaptation among other discussions at Baku and the imperative of these components and items need to be further unpacked. The event will also discuss preparations and lay a strategy for COP30, which will be in Belem, Brazil, and which is set to focus on indigenous populations and agroindustry.

Global governance mechanisms on climate change such as the UNFCCC provide opportunities to fulfil SDG13 targets in Africa, including Integrating climate change measures into national policies and promoting effective climate change planning and management in developing countries.

As a contribution to the focus of the 11<sup>th</sup> ARFSD, this event will explore intersections between climate change and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), focusing on how these sectors influence the achievement of health, equity, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental resilience. With the climate crisis disproportionately impacting water resources, health, and sanitation systems across Africa.

This event will present a critical platform for forging deeper partnerships and collaborations between actors, building trust, and continuously reaching out to each other based on a shared vision of positioning Africa as a Strategic Partner in the inevitable transition to a low-carbon, ecologically just, climate-resilient future anchored on our cultural heritage.

### **3. Objectives**

- i. To critically unpack key outcomes of UNFCCC-COP29, reflect on the upcoming Africa Climate Summit and assess Africa's wins and misses in 2024.

- ii. To draw recommendations and contribute to the Climate Change Decisions of CAHOSCC and the thirty-eighth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union
- iii. 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.
- iv. To discuss and build consensus on the next steps towards, during, and beyond COP30.
- v. Evaluate progress in addressing climate-induced WASH challenges and implementing regional frameworks for climate resilience.
- vi. Discuss barriers to universal WASH access in the context of climate change, including policy gaps, financing shortfalls, and capacity constraints.
- vii. Highlight innovative solutions and partnerships that leverage WASH interventions for enhanced climate adaptation and mitigation.
- viii. Promote multisectoral partnerships and resource mobilization to strengthen WASH systems as a foundation for achieving SDG 3, SDG 5, and SDG 17.

#### **4. Expected Outcomes**

- i. Deeper internalization of COP29 outcomes and implications for Africa, status of the continent in global climate discourse processes, and collective way forward for 2025 and beyond.
- ii. An outcome document with key recommendations and key messages to CAHOSCC and AU Assembly.
- iii. A deepened appreciation of the political economy of climate Action in Africa, the role of strategic African stakeholders, and how this can be strengthened.
- iv. Enhanced networking and synergy across geographies as a vibrant platform for 2025 interactions and engagements.
- v. Contribution to the thematic review of the selected 11<sup>th</sup> ARFSD SDGs and Agenda 2063 priorities by emphasizing WASH linkages with SDG3 (good health and well-being), SDG5(gender equality), SDG8(decent work and economic growth), SDG14(life below water) and SDG17(partnership for the Goals).

#### **5. Event Structure**

The event will be organized with distinct themes, with each session having a clear thematic outlook and focus of conversations. To enrich the experience of participants while allowing latitude to cover significantly more details, the pitch of the event will be set 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**

- a. Technical Experts
- b. Government and intergovernmental representatives
- c. Non-State Actors (NGOs, Indigenous Groups, Women, Youth, Trade Unions, Farmers Groups, PWDS, Pastoralists, etc)
- d. Private sector

## **7. Organizers**

- a. African Union Commission
- b. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- c. African Development Bank'

## **8. Partners**

- a. Uganda Parliamentary Forum
- b. Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance
- c. Global Centre on Adaptation
- d. Afrexim Bank