

# OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE 13TH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CCDA-XIII), HELD UNDER THE THEME: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S CLIMATE ACTION WITH SCIENCE, FINANCE, AND JUSTICE MEETING

ADWA VICTORY MEMORIAL MUSEUM, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 5–7 SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Preamble

*We, the participants of the 13th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIII), meeting held on the theme Empowering Africa's Climate Action with Science, Finance, and Justice in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 5–7 September 2025.*

1. **Having held** fruitful and high-quality deliberations on the various sub-sub-themes of the conference.
2. **Recognizing** that Africa, while contributing only 3 - 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, bears a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis, suffering recurrent droughts, floods, cyclones, desertification, sea-level rise, with over 110 million people impacted by climate disasters in 2024, and biodiversity loss, all of which erode 5–15% of GDP annually and undermine hard-won development gains.
3. **Recognizing** the unique vulnerabilities and priorities of African Island States and the need for effective response measures, including through dedicated adaptation finance, tailored technical support, and equitable access to funding mechanisms, including blue and circular economy solutions, ocean-based adaptation, and climate-resilient infrastructure.
4. **Acknowledging** that climate change threatens food security, health, water, ecosystems, peace, stability and livelihoods, while disproportionately affecting women, children, youth, People Living with Disability (PLWDs) displaced populations, those living in poverty and vulnerable groups, deepening existing inequalities and threatening social cohesion.
5. **Welcoming** the call by African leaders, to scale up responses to Climate Change through solutions that are science-informed, fair, and based on just finance, bold and harmonized Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and which drive green

employment, youth and women empowerment, and climate-resilient development while reinforcing and advancing the implementation of Agenda 2063, the African Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022-2032), and related framework and initiatives such as the AU Green Recovery Action Plan (AU GRAP), the AU Great Green Wall Initiative, the Africa Green Industrialization, the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and the Continental Circular Economy Action Plan (2024–2034).

6. **Reaffirming** ‘The Tripoli Declaration on Environmental action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future’ and the decisions on Climate Change, adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-20).
7. **Acknowledging** Africa's growing youth population as a major demographic dividend and their role as innovators, entrepreneurs, and climate leaders in creating a safe and prosperous future, and stressing the need to invest in their skills, participation, and empowerment.
8. **Underscoring** that Africa has rich natural resources, biodiversity, and renewable energy endowments that are essential for green industrialization, sustainable value chains, and an equitable transition towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies.
9. **Recognizing** climate change as a threat multiplier for Human, Animal and Environmental Health.
10. **Emphasizing** the importance of scaling up nature-based solutions, resilient infrastructure, land and water management, and investments in clean energy.
11. **Recognizing** the potential of indigenous knowledge systems, in conjunction with science, technology, and innovation, in creating context-relevant and people-oriented solutions to resolve climate issues.
12. **Acknowledging** that Africa is not merely adapting but also offering solutions to the global climate crisis through leadership in renewable energy, green technologies, and carbon sequestration opportunities.

13. **Concerned** by the unfulfilled commitments of the Paris Agreement, especially the mobilization of sufficient, predictable, and accessible finance, technology transfer, and capacity building with transparency and accountability for making the resources available where needed most.
14. **Further concerned** that the current global climate architecture is failing Africa including, through complex and inequitable financing mechanisms, a lack of accountability from historical polluters, and a persistent narrative that casts Africa as a passive recipient of aid rather than an active leader in a green and just future.
15. **Noting** the African Development Bank's pledge to mobilize USD 25 billion annually and calling for the operationalization of Africa's Climate Fund (USD 23 billion over 27 years) immediately, while calling for concerted, Africa-led efforts to hold partners to account and raise pledges from bilateral and multilateral partners, philanthropies, and the private sector.
16. **Affirming** the urgent need to create millions of decent green jobs across the continent, leveraging Africa's natural resources, renewable energy, biodiversity, and digital transformation to drive inclusive and climate-resilient growth.
17. **Affirming** the potential of Africa's growing youth population as innovators, entrepreneurs, and climate leaders, and stressing the need to invest in developing their skills, and fostering their participation in investment, decision making and climate governance
18. **Recognizing** ongoing efforts to support and strengthen the African common position in global climate negotiations.
19. **Underscoring** that Africa must be an architect of its own future.
20. **Welcoming** the convening of the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-2) which will position Africa at the center of climate justice, resilience, and mobilization of transformative climate finance for its people.
21. **Noting** that by advancing science and data, closing the adaptation gap, transforming climate finance, driving a just transition, scaling ecosystem-based solutions, and

strengthening governance, Africa can progress from vulnerability to resilient development and empower the leadership to shape global climate action with ambition that delivers justice, unity and peace.

22. **Welcoming the recognition of** the outcomes of CCDA-XIII as critical technical contributions to the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-2).

***Do hereby***

1. **Adopt** the following Key Messages and Recommendations as main outcomes of the 13th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-XIII) as input to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Summit and the UNFCCC COP30.
2. **Urge** the ClimDev Africa initiative, led by the AUC, UNECA, AfDB and Afreximbank, to maintain institutional coherence, strengthen secretariat mechanisms, and provide continuous technical support to advance Africa's unified and coherent climate agenda.
3. **Call upon** the participants at ACS2 and at the UNFCCC COP30 to consider and undertake as part of their respective outcomes, the following commitments and **Request** AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Civil Society Organizations and relevant stakeholders to translate the key messages and policy recommendations into concrete actions to drive climate resilient and inclusive sustainable development in Africa:

**(a) In respect of Africa's Unified Voice and Global Leadership:**

- (i) To commit to a unified and powerful African voice at the Second Africa Climate Summit and COP30, leveraging its historical and current leadership in climate governance to demand justice, not charity.
- (ii) To advocate for the African Union to amend its statute accordingly in order to become a party to the UNFCCC, a move that will provide a new, powerful platform for a united African voice in global negotiations.
- (iii) To call for continuous training and support for African negotiators to ensure they have the technical expertise and institutional memory needed for sustained influence.

**(b) In respect of the Global Stocktake**

- (i) To use the findings of the First Global Stocktake (GST-1) as a catalyst for more ambitious, African-owned Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that are transformative and central to national development and investment.
- (ii) To prioritize the integration of loss and damage findings and the quantification of climate risk into future NDCs.
- (iii) To ensure that the NDC 3.0 process is nationally owned and inclusive, with full participation of all sectors of government and society and co-led by the relevant climate change ministries and ministries of finance and planning.
- (iv) To strengthen regional cooperation to map data sources, build capacity for transboundary risk management, and embed indigenous knowledge into the NDCs and climate action plans.

**(c) In relation to Mobilizing Finance for a Just and Resilient Africa**

- (i) To advocate for a fundamental overhaul the current climate finance architecture, because it is inadequate and unjust, and call for the prioritization of grants, debt cancellation, and simplified access to funds for adaptation.
- (ii) To commit to radical shift of African climate finance from aid to strategic, continent-led investment and mobilize the USD 2.5 to 3 trillion required annually by 2030 for Africa's NDCs.
- (iii) To call for a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) that is based on grants-only financing and that includes a clear pathway for debt cancellation and delivery of USD 1.5 trillion annually by 2030 and the USD 300 billion annual climate finance commitment by 2035.
- (iv) To push for a common, standardized framework for climate finance reporting to ensure transparency and accountability.
- (v) To develop strategies to de-risk private investment in high-impact climate sectors and champion domestic resource mobilization to reduce aid dependency and build financial sovereignty.

- (vi) To advocate accelerated reform of the international financial architecture, debt-for-climate swaps, concessional instruments, and elimination of Africa's excessive borrowing costs, which is currently 5 to 8 times higher than developed countries.
- (vii) To harness carbon market potential, with strong safeguards for environmental integrity, transparent MRV, and equitable benefit-sharing, including formulation of robust legislative frameworks by governments for effective and Just participation in the carbon markets.
- (viii) To expand innovative financing tools such as debt-for-climate swaps, green/blue bonds, blended finance, sovereign green ratings, SME climate investment vehicles.
- (ix) To increase climate finance and investment flows to build Africa's green workforce including through skilling, retraining, and green jobs creation as an integral component of just transition pathways.
- (x) To align climate and social sector financing and position climate-resilient infrastructure and services for children as a central pillar of Africa's climate strategy and human capital investment.
- (xi) To ensure that climate finance criteria integrate conflict sensitivity, to enable fragile and conflict-affected states to access resources to advance and sustain peace, security and resilience.
- (xii) To strengthen Country-Led Platforms and Local Financial Systems.
- (xiii) To accelerate uptake and disbursement of climate finance for Africa's most vulnerable countries by streamlining access modalities to key funding mechanisms - including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Adaptation Fund (AF), and Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD).
- (xiv) Enhance Coordination Across Climate Finance Institutions including fostering deeper collaboration among GCF, CIF, Adaptation Fund, AfDB, and the Loss and

Damage Fund to harmonize programming, co-finance transformative projects, and avoid duplication.

- (xv) To incentivize domestic financing including from the private sector.

**(d) In relation to Adaptation, Resilience, Security and Loss and Damage**

- (i) To recognize and tackle climate change as a critical driver of conflict, displacement, and food insecurity in Africa's most fragile contexts.
- (ii) To ensure that Africa's adaptation strategies are holistic, linking climate action directly to peace, security, and sustainable livelihoods.
- (iii) To call for urgent, scaled up and predictable international financial support to address Africa's USD 160 billion annual adaptation finance gap.
- (iv) To develop conflict-sensitive adaptation strategies and strengthen multi-hazard integrated climate conflict early warning systems
- (v) To enhance preparedness and enable effective, timely, and coordinated responses to disasters, including those that may trigger conflict.
- (vi) To call for the rollout and operationalization of the new Disaster Losses and Damages tracking system and full and equitable operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund (FRLD), with equitable access and recognition of both economic and non-economic losses (life, heritage, biodiversity, culture).
- (vii) To demand support to help African countries, particularly the most vulnerable, access the technical assistance from the Santiago Network for averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage from climate change.
- (viii) To prioritize long-term, multi-sectoral interventions that build sustained resilience and promote peace.
- (ix) To anchor locally led, inclusive, gender and disability-responsive adaptation as Africa's standard for resilience, peacebuilding, and social stability.
- (x) To link adaptation to peace, security, and mobility strategies in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

(xi) To build resilience by integrating climate risks into every social system including health, education, water, nutrition, and protection budgets and delivery.

**(e) In relation to Powering a Just and Sovereign Energy Future**

- (i) To ensure that energy transition is African-led and prioritizes universal energy access and affordability to the over 600 million to power industrialization and move beyond the role of Africa as a raw material provider.
- (ii) To explore all viable energy pathways, including nuclear power, to enhance universal energy access and support industrialization.
- (iii) To emphasize Africa's sovereignty over its critical mineral resources and develop a unified position in negotiations to ensure that the continent benefits from value-added production and regional value chains.
- (iv) To demand that justice is intentional and that the "just transition" agenda serves Africa's unique development needs.
- (v) To prioritize green jobs, social protection, retraining, and youth/women's empowerment across transition pathways and to develop and support transformative capacity development programs that empower women, youth and people living with disabilities to create and participate in green jobs.

**(f) In relation to Science, Data & Climate Intelligence**

- (i) To mobilize investments and strengthen disaster and climate risk knowledge to close Africa's disaster and climate data and knowledge gaps including through ClimDev-Africa and related programmes.
- (ii) To develop integrated Climate Intelligence Systems and monitoring and forecasting systems combining Indigenous knowledge, AI mechanisms or interventions and satellite tools to guide adaptation, agriculture, and risk management.
- (iii) To strengthen and scale up multi hazard early warning systems and climate services with support from private sector, development partners, climate funds, and other stakeholders to protect lives and livelihoods and ensure resilient sustainable development.
- (iv) To invest in data and evidence to design and implement relevant solutions and policy options to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change particularly on children, women, people living with disability and other vulnerable groups.
- (v) To strengthen science - policy interfaces to empower African negotiators and policymakers to act on informed, credible, evidence-based positions.
- (vi) To advocate for the allocation of at least 1% of national GDP to research and development to raise Africa's level of science, technology as recommended by the African Union over the past decade, and to increase the proportion of such budget allocated to research and development for climate science and technologies.

**(g) In relation to Ecosystems & Nature-Based Solutions**

- (i) To affirm the potential of Africa's ecosystems (forests, wetlands, peatlands, rangelands, oceans) to drive ecosystem-based adaptation and biodiversity protection.
- (ii) To scale up community-led ecosystem stewardship linked to digital and technological solutions including precision agriculture, smart forestry, mini-grids.

- (iii) To advocate for global valuation standards that recognize Africa's natural assets - especially the Congo Basin, mangroves, and peatlands - as critical global public goods.
- (iv) To scale up support and programmes to integrate just circular economy principles and approaches into Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans and support investments in climate resilient circular economic value chains to create green jobs, foster inclusive economic growth, enhance public health and drive long-term ecosystem sustainability.
- (v) To commit to and support integrated implementation of the African Union strategies and action plans on climate resilience, biodiversity, land restoration, and blue and circular economy to drive just transitions, create green and blue jobs, inclusive green and sustainable blue economies and sustainable marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

**(h) In relation to Health and Climate Change**

- (i) To strengthen the knowledge and evidence base and raise the profile of the climate change and health nexus including through generating data, including, indigenous data on climate and health nexus, undertaking vulnerability and risk assessment, strengthening met services to provide high-quality information and forecasts on climate and health and strengthening data sharing systems
- (ii) To strengthen regional and national policy frameworks and collaboration on climate change and health by among others, developing country-led and driven health sector adaptation approaches; embedding health considerations into global climate change negotiations and regional and national climate frameworks, including NDCs, NAPs and DRR strategies; establishing an Africa health and climate policy task force and strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration especially among the environment and health ministries.

- (iii) To scale up investments in health and implement integrated health and climate programmes and ensure joint/integrated mechanisms for mobilising and channeling financing to climate change and health priorities.
- (iv) To strengthen community resilience: Address livelihood needs, social protection and ensure access to adequate energy.

**(i) In relation to Governance & Institutional Coherence**

- (i) To strengthen Africa's institutional readiness and governance systems to access finance, implement NDCs, and ensure accountability.
- (ii) To embed climate action into national development plans, AfCFTA, and peace/security frameworks.
- (iii) To rationalize Africa's continental climate governance architecture under AU leadership, ensuring coherence and effectiveness.
- (iv) To encourage AU Member States to consider reforms that would enhance coherence of Africa's representation in the UNFCCC system, including institutionalizing of the AGN within the AU framework.
- (v) To reaffirm that the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022–2032) must guide national policy frameworks and implementation strategies.
- (vi) To dramatically ramp up engagement and support for sub-national authorities to develop programmes and scale up investments for climate resilience in the context of the projected rapid urbanization in Africa and to drive local action to achieve tangible results.
- (vii) To promote the integration of African Island States priorities into the continental frameworks and negotiations to reflect their unique position at the frontline of climate change.

**(j) In respect to Global Community Responsibilities**

To call on the global community to

- (i) honor and exceed existing finance pledges and implement the USD 300 billion annual climate finance commitment by 2035.

- (ii) deliver a measurable Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with agreed indicators and targets.
- (iii) establish global carbon taxation regimes (on fossil fuel trade, aviation, shipping) with fair governance, channeling revenues into Africa's resilience.
- (iv) ensure non-discriminatory trade and industrial policies to allow Africa's climate-smart products to compete on fair and equitable terms.

## **Conclusion**

4. **Request** the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Development Bank (AfDB) to convey the key messages of CCDA-XIII to the ACS2, UNFCCC COP30 and other strategic and relevant regional and global conferences.
5. **Express** appreciation to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the ClimDev-Africa Programme and its partners - AUC, UNECA, AfDB, Afreximbank and PACJA for the successful convening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa.