

Pre-ACS Event: Non-State Actors Dialogues on ACS and Road Map to COP28

Venue: TBC

Dates: September 3 &4, 2023

Context:

The 36th Summit of Heads of States and Government of the African Union mandated the Government of Kenya to host the Africa Climate Summit on September 04-06, 2023. The Summit is expected to bring together top African leaders and allied Governments from both South and North, to deeply reflect and review the progress of climate actions within and without the continent, and, perhaps, provide political guidance to downstream Actors - Negotiators to UNFCCC and other processes actively engaged in the global stocktake. This convening takes place against a dark shadow cast by the IPCC-AR6 report, which casts a worrying picture of the world that is rapidly losing the opportunity to turn the tide on global warming during the century, and Africa being impacted by climate change under all mitigation scenarios.

The Non-State Actors in their strive to engage and contribute to positive outcomes of this summit began to organize as early as April. In this pursuit the Africa Climate Summit Non-State Actors Steering Committee was established with clear and overarching objectives of pursuing during the Summit, its processes, and in the build-up to COP28, notably as follows:

1. Unified voice and position of African Governments on our collective aspirations and priorities in the countdown to COP28.
2. The primacy of Africa's common strategies and plans in the participation in other global coalitions based on ideologies, regions, and interests; LDC Group, VCF, G77&China, SIDs, etc.
3. Clearly formulated processes for reforming the global funding architecture to have in place mechanisms that are accessible to African Governments, CSOs, and communities at the frontline of the climate crisis.
4. Explore new avenues for extraordinary partnerships and collaborations to assist in the sustainability of the collective influence and effort within the Summit and beyond.

The Non-State Actors convened several explorative and constructive dialogues that took place both in their respective cluster and also as convenings of the entire ACS-NSA Actors, generating insights on both progress and gaps in their influence process. The ACS-NSA was organized into 11 clusters, representing diverse interests, but there were emerging commonalities in the pattern of interests as well as approaches for advancing these interests.

In pursuing their interests, the NSA engaged with Kenya's Government, the African Union, the Summit convenor, and the larger ClimDev-Africa Initiative to ensure the Agenda of the Summit Aligns with Africa's Climate Change Strategy and the continent's collective pursuit for a unified

voice. Nevertheless, influencing the agenda and ensuring this is firmly within the grip of African people and its key institutions remained an elusive dream, with mean recognition of the role key African Stakeholders can play in its conceptualization, design, and action.

So far the premising of the Africa Climate Summit is problematic as it creates a landscape that contests not only the African Position in climate negotiation but creates a safety valve for the global north to escape accountability. Simply put, it negates the Paris Agreement on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Capabilities. The Africa Climate Summit opines that global climate action is not a Global North vs Global South problem; it is not a rich country vs. poor country problem; it is not a high-emitter vs low-emitter problem. It is a global problem and we need to take global action together now, a premise that is likely to compromise Africa's pursuit of accountability in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The summit is largely billed as an investment platform for securing commitments, including showcasing multi-billion \$ worth of green investment deals on the continent across all sectors (including energy, nature, manufacturing, etc.). It seeks to create a pathway to a new global financial deal that includes "at-scale" and fit-for-purpose financing instruments/products to be delivered by DFIs, MDBs, and private financiers that serve specific growth goals, e.g., carbon credit project development facility, green manufacturing facility, nature financing facility, reskilling/ jobs transition facility, etc. The ACS has been largely positioned as the President of Kenya's vision on the pathway Africa should take in accelerating climate response, and largely with global private sector investments catalyzing green growth and transitions in Africa.

So far, the process of formulating both the agenda and outcomes of the Summit has remained a highly guarded process, with extremely censored participation

Objectives

It is against this background the Non-State Actors convene in a dialogue process aimed at generating an outcome declaration on the kind of outcomes NSA would like to see from the ACS.

1. Provide an engaging alternative platform and space for Africa Climate Summit – Non-State Actors to consolidate their perspectives, voice, and the direction Africa should take in advancing its interests in climate negotiations
2. To detail their visions for inclusive pathways for green growth, inclusive, locally led just transitions for the continent
3. Expose the fallacy of Global North and corporate-driven climate solutions and its implications in the implementation of sustainable climate response actions and what their entrenched centrality means to the spirit, the letter of, and delivery of the Paris Agreement.

4. Recast our collective priorities in climate response measures by advancing advocacy for climate justice in Africa, equity, and human rights against the background of global corporate capture of climate change spaces and the Paris Agreement
5. Develop alternative pathways for Africa for catalyzing climate action, accelerating financing for adaptation, the transformation of its agricultural systems, and driving people-centered transitions.
6. Detail NSA demands and approaches for pursuing these in the build-up to COP28 and other intermittent influence moments

In addition to these objectives, the NSADialogues will provide space for activation events as represented by launches of topical and thematic studies and campaign actions, providing a richer ecosystem for synergy in actions among all actors.

Central agenda items

- Keeping Paris Agreement Alive – Resisting global north led corporate capture and killing of the Paris Agreement
- Advancing for adaptation agenda as the core priority for Africa in COP28
- Positioning agriculture in adaptation and just transition discourses
- The role and position of carbon markets in climate response in Africa
- Just transitions – centering just transitions on people
- Climate finance – the nagging call to honor commitments and activate the third pillar of response in COP28

Key Outcomes

- a. A Non-state Actors Declaration document
- b. Strengthened voice and participation of NSAs in ACS conversations
- c. A Draft Plan of Action in the Build-up to COP28
- d. Enhanced capacity and understanding of NSAs on key issues at stake in ACS and Climate negotiations

General organization

- The Non-State Actors Dialogues will be organized in a manner to accommodate common sessions and distinct sessions for clusters

- The first day (September 03) will be devoted to sessions in common while the first half (8.30 am – 1 pm) of the second day will be devoted to cluster-specific convening. The afternoon will be utilized for activation events, firming the declaration and its adoption
- Both the common sessions and the distinct sessions led by clusters will contribute to one common declaration for the summit
- In the spirit of capturing quite substantive details for the declaration, a drafting committee will be in place early to capture and weave together diverse interests from the clusters. Outputs of the dialogues will be used to further crystalize the declaration
- Respective clusters have a duty of developing the respective sections of their program and aligning this with this program. In total, we envisage not more than three (3) parallel events on the first half of the second day.
- September 05, the morning will be spent sharing the outcome document – the declaration with the leadership of the Africa Climate Summit, through a youth-led March.