



AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2

8-10 September, 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

KEY MESSAGES FROM NON-STATE ACTORS AND INCLUSIVITY COMMITTEE (ALL CLUSTERS)

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8 - 10 September
Addis Ababa

ACCELERATING GLOBAL
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

THE SECOND AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT [ACSE2]
8-10 SEPTEMBER, 2025 | ADDIS ABABA

FINANCING FOR AFRICA'S
RESILIENT AND
GREEN DEVELOPMENT

Overview

The Non-State Actors and Inclusivity Committee of the ACS-2 is constituted as a functional structure of the ACS-2 by both AUC and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to leave no one behind. In specifics, it seeks to strengthen the participation of all non-state actors, enhance accessibility measures, integrate knowledge, and enhance protocols for inclusive participation and safeguards.

To spearhead this, 16 clusters were mandated, comprising: 1. Women's movements; 2. Youth movements; 3. Agriculture and food security; 4. Labour movements 5. Private sector and financial institutions; 6. Indigenous people/ local communities; 7. Faith Actors; 8. Human Rights, Democracy and Climate Governance; 9. Children and future generations focused institutions 10. Climate change and Health Actors; 11. Research & Academia; 12. Climate and environmental NGOs; 13. Biodiversity Conservation & locally led solutions; 14. People with disabilities 15. Peace and Climate security & Migrations (conflicts, migrations, displaced persons); and 16. Philanthropies. Intensive consultations within and across these clusters yielded these key messages for inclusion in the declaration.

Women Movement Cluster

Our Key Messages

- (1)** Center Women's Voices in Climate Decision-Making: Ensure women, girls, and gender-diverse persons, especially from grassroots and Indigenous communities, are meaningfully represented in all climate governance and decision making in shaping decisions on climate change and finance structures.
- (2)** Advance Feminist Climate Justice: Recognize that climate change is not gender-neutral and recognise the impacts of climate change to women's care work and responsibilities. Address structural inequalities, redistribute resources, and adopt intersectional approaches to mitigation and adaptation.
- (3)** Prioritize Loss and Damage finance for Women on the Frontlines: Fill up the Loss and Damage Fund with direct, accessible financing for women-led, community-based initiatives in Africa.
- (4)** Guarantee Gender-Responsive Climate Finance: Commit to increasing grant-based, flexible funding directly to women's rights organizations and feminist climate solutions.

- (5) Protect Women's Land, Water, and Resource Rights:** Address gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement and secure women's rights to land, water, and other natural resources in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- (6) Gender responsive green economy:** promote inclusive governance, integrate gender-responsive budgeting, and facilitate access to adaptable financial resources for rural women.
- (7) African Government Leadership on Gender Equality:** African Heads of States and Government commit prioritize and allocate adequate resources to advance gender equality in the context of climate change.

Youth Cluster

We call for the establishment of a future looking Africa climate governance framework that ensures the full institutionalization of the Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) as the mandated continental platform for youth engagement in climate governance within African Union frameworks, ensuring a guaranteed structured representation of young people in the Africa Climate Summit and across all AU climate governance processes. Furthermore, we emphasize the creation of a Continental Youth Climate Fund, hosted within proposed Africa Climate Fund, to mobilize resources from diverse sources, public, private, philanthropic, and others, to support youth led innovations, solutions, and initiatives, as well as to enable the meaningful, sub-regionally equitable and sustained participation of African youth in national, regional and international climate and environmental processes.

Faith Actors' Cluster

Africa Faith Voices Addis Ababa Declaration: Central matters for Africa that must be urgently considered.

(i) Peace for Climate Justice

Many African countries are lagging in the implementation of their NAPs due to lack of peace and stability. Without peace, climate solutions cannot thrive; and without climate justice, peace itself remains fragile. Faith traditions remind us that justice and peace are inseparable.

(ii) Debt Cancellation as a Path to Climate Justice

From the heart of our spiritual traditions, we lift up the call of the Jubilee sacred time of release, renewal, and restoration. In the Bible, Jubilee (Leviticus 25) was a time when debts were cancelled, the land was allowed to rest, and justice was restored among the people. In the Qur'an, too, we are reminded that creation belongs to God and that humanity is entrusted as khalifah (stewards), not exploiters. Today, Africa faces a new form of bondage: many nations spend more on servicing external debts.

(iii) Climate Finance

Africa is on the frontlines of the climate crisis, bearing immense annual losses while receiving only little to adaptation and almost nil for Loss and Damage needs. COP29 left the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) unattended, creating further uncertainty and deepening the injustice that Africa faces.

(iv) Faith Statement on Just Energy Transition and Energy Justice

We affirm that the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy must be just, fair, and inclusive; without abandoning the workers and communities. The shift must uphold dignity, create new opportunities, and build resilience. Africa's transition must be built on justice, equity, and sustainability.

(v) Food Sovereignty, Creation Care, and Community Resilience

We affirm that food is a sacred gift from God, and the land, water, and seeds that sustain life are entrusted to humanity as stewards. Priority must be given to protecting and scaling up indigenous and faith-rooted practices that have long safeguarded Africa's food systems and biodiversity. The sacred Ethiopian Church Forests, agro-ecology methods in Maasai pastoralism in Kenya and Tanzania to mention some.

(vi) Youth, Women, PWDs and Interfaith Solidarity

We affirm that women, youth, PWDs, and interfaith communities are at the heart of Africa's resilience. From Kenya's pastoralist women and youth to Ethiopia's smallholder farmers, from fisherfolk in Senegal to women seed keepers in Mali,, they bear the burdens of CC; while having creative and effective local solutions. Interfaith solidarity is a moral force for climate justice. From Islamic environmental initiatives in Mali, to Christian-led reforestation in Nigeria, interfaith peace and land restoration in South Sudan.

Therefore, we call on African leaders at the Africa Climate Summit and on global leaders at COP30 to focus and urgently work on to address the aforementioned Africa Faith voices.

Health & Climate Cluster

'Positioning health at the heart of Africa's climate resilience'

— Key messages for ACS-2 declaration —

(i) Health is Central to Africa's Climate Resilience – Not a Side Issue

Climate change is the greatest health threat in Africa, yet health remains underrepresented in climate policy and finance. The limited focus on health in the Africa Climate Summit 1 (ACS1) must be corrected in ACS2 by placing health as a core pillar of climate resilience, justice, and development. African leaders must ensure health is a foundation—not an afterthought—in Africa's climate agenda.

(ii) Elevate Health in All Climate Policy Frameworks

Integrate and institutionalize health across all climate and development frameworks, including NDCs, NAPs, LTS, and the Global Goal on Adaptation for climate-informed health policies. Use a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach that is aligned with the Common African Position on Climate and Health and the AU Agenda 2063

(iii) Secure Mobilised, Accessible, and Sustainable Climate Finance for Health

Finance for climate-resilient health systems remains insufficient, inaccessible, and unsustainable. Advocate for mobilization of new and additional resources, especially through grant-based mechanisms. Push for simplified access for Ministries of Health and local actors, and ensure long-term, predictable financing that supports systemic investments in infrastructure, workforce, and services—especially in SRHR, maternal health, and mental health.

(iv) Strengthen Country-Led, Climate-Resilient Health Systems

Support systemic, country-driven long-term investments in climate-proof infrastructure, workforce capacity development, early warning systems, and renewable energy in health facilities. The time for pilot projects is over. Africa needs long-term, scalable solutions.

(v) Promote One Health and Multi-Sectoral Coordination for Climate and Health Resilience

Endorse a One Health approach to address the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. Empower Ministries of Health to lead interministerial collaboration and strengthen national and regional coordination mechanisms.

(vi) Promote One Health and Multi-Sectoral Coordination for Climate and Health Resilience

Invest in African-led climate-health research, knowledge platforms, and digital data systems to guide evidence-based policymaking and enhance early warning capabilities. Support regional Centers of Excellence for climate and health innovation.

(vii) Ensure Equity, Gender-Responsiveness and Climate-Health Accountability

Climate and health solutions must center on equity, human rights, and gender justice. Protect women, youth, and vulnerable communities by supporting their participation in decision-making and by collecting and using age and gender disaggregated data. Promote transparency and accountability in climate-health governance and financing.

(viii) Champion Health at UNFCCC Negotiations and COP30

Africa must speak with one voice. As the Africa Group of Negotiators, make health a cross-cutting priority in all UNFCCC negotiation streams. Demand inclusion of health indicators in adaptation, mitigation, and finance mechanisms, including the Global Stock-take and Loss & Damage Fund.

Call to Action

We call on ACS-2 declaration to:

- Ensure the Africa Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) outcome explicitly elevates health as a central pillar of Africa's adaptation and climate resilience efforts.
- Position health as a central pillar in Africa's climate negotiations.
- Embed health in all climate policy and finance instruments, nationally and globally.
- Champion a unified African voice on climate and health at COP30.
- Secure increased, accessible, and sustainable climate financing that supports long-term health system resilience.
- Position Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) as a strategy measure for climate change adaptation and resilience building for vulnerable communities

The health of Africa is the health of the planet. The time to act is now.

Biodiversity & Locally-Led Solutions Cluster

Core Commitments

- (1) Biodiversity-Positive Climate Action:** Adoption of integrated approaches in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration into all national climate action plans and development strategies, ensuring that climate mitigation and adaptation efforts deliver net biodiversity gains.
- (2) Locally Led Financing:** Recommend establishing and operationalising climate and biodiversity financing mechanisms that channel at least 30% of adaptation and restoration resources directly to local communities, indigenous peoples, and women-led initiatives.
- (3) Restoration at Scale:** Accelerate the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative restore at least 100 million hectares of degraded African landscapes by 2030 through nature-based solutions, community forestry, and indigenous knowledge systems.
- (4) Rights and Tenure Security:** We affirm the land and resource rights of indigenous peoples, pastoralists, and local communities as a cornerstone of effective biodiversity stewardship and climate resilience.
- (5) Green Livelihoods:** Commitment to developing green value chains – including sustainable forestry, agroecology, and non-timber forest products – that safeguard biodiversity while generating dignified and inclusive income opportunities.

- (6) **Biodiversity-Climate Knowledge Partnership:** We call for strengthening African-led research, the documentation of traditional ecological knowledge, and data-sharing platforms to inform evidence-based biodiversity and climate policies.
- (7) **Regional Solidarity:** Call for promotion and support to regional biodiversity corridors, transboundary protected areas, and shared climate adaptation programmes to enhance ecological connectivity and resilience

KEY MESSAGES

- (I) **Put People and Rights at the Center:** Urge member states, institutions and stakeholders to place people, and their rights, at the heart of biodiversity and climate action by securing their customary tenure rights, legal recognition, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing for IPLCs across Africa in support of community led solutions and actions
- (II) **Harness Knowledge, Innovation, and Partnerships**
- Leverage the power of knowledge, innovation, and partnerships to accelerate progress on biodiversity and climate goals.
 - Recognize and integrate Indigenous knowledge, local practices, and innovations that have protected Africa's forests, rivers, wildlife, and lands for generations.
 - Support youth, researchers, and communities to develop solutions that regenerate ecosystems and livelihoods.
- (III) **Climate Finance:** Strongly advocate for Africa to receive a Just Share of Global Biodiversity and Climate Finance essential to address biodiversity loss and climate change impacts – Adaptation, Mitigation and Loss and Damage

Human Rights, Democracy, Climate Governance and Transparency Cluster

Our Commitments

- (i) **Amplify** human-rights-based and inclusive climate governance across in all climate actions and legal instruments.
- (ii) **Ensure** ACS-2 outcomes reflect declarations and commitments grounded in justice and equity.
- (iii) **Elevate** the leadership and agency of marginalized communities in policy dialogue and implementation.

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- (iv) **Promote accountability**, accessibility, and transparency across climate financing and governance systems.
 - (v) **Forge** a united continental front ahead of COP 30, anchoring community experiences in global climate diplomacy.

a. Specific Demands to Leaders at ACS II

- (i) African states must formally commit to embedding human rights, equity, and justice in all climate policies, ensuring meaningful participation by women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and displaced communities.
- (ii) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans, and climate finance strategies must systematically mainstream gender, disability, social justice, housing / informal settlements, and urban context.
- (iii) Launch a pan-African observatory to track and report human rights and inclusivity in climate action; politically commit to protecting climate-displaced persons, within and across borders.
- (iv) Issue legal and political guarantees safeguarding the rights, safety, and freedoms of activists and defenders advocating for climate and environmental justice.
- (iv) Explicitly incorporate housing, informal settlements, and urban realities into climate adaptation strategies and NDCs, recognizing these as critical to climate resilience

b. Call to Action

We call on governments, multilateral bodies, donors, civil society, and private sector actors to:

- Back the human-rights grounded demands of this cluster.
 - Mobilize fair and accessible climate finance, in the form of grants not loans, targeting adaptation, just transitions, housing, livelihoods, and locally-led innovation.
 - Support the creation and operationalization of the Continental Environmental Monitoring Mechanism anchored on human rights and with clear indicators for transparency, accountability, and civil society oversight.
 - Enact laws and policies to protect environmental defenders and safeguard civic space.
 - Ensure inclusivity in all climate design and implementation that integrates the needs of special and marginalized groups.
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Research & Academia Cluster

This cluster calls for enhanced inclusion of academia and research in climate discourse and specifically roots for the following actions to be furthered in recommendation of ACS-2 and its post action plan:

- (i) Strengthened coordination of African Research network on climate change at AU level that foster knowledge synthesis for policymakers and foster virtual exchanges among African researchers & diaspora.
- (ii) Establishment of an AU-funded open-access climate data repository to prevent exploitation and enhance accountability and transparency.
- (iii) Africa must own its climate knowledge and lead in homegrown solutions
- (iv) Recognition of African researchers in the climate conversation.
- (v) ACS-2 resolutions must prioritize research, finance, and policy integration.

Children Focused Organizations

A Child-Centered Agenda for a Climate-Resilient Africa: Our Declaration and Call to Action
Capturing Children's Voices from across Africa

Children's Specific Recommendation	Children's Specific Recommendation
Provide education and training in renewable energy technologies, green minerals and sustainability practices	Green Transition of Mineral Resources
Fight climate change by working together in our communities and asking our leaders to help farmers use smart ways to grow food like planting crops that don't need much water, saving rainwater, and using better watering systems. This helps protect the land and makes sure everyone has enough to eat.	African Solutions for Climate Action
Help families stay healthy and strong by building better water systems so everyone has clean water to drink, and by giving money and support to families who need help, especially during hard times.	Unlocking Scalable Climate Finance:

Help people grow food even when it's dry by teaching farmers better ways to care for the land and using special crops that don't need much water. We can also teach children in school about healthy eating so they grow up strong and smart. They should also support children with nutritious food both at school and home.	Food and Agriculture
Integrate child-sensitive priorities into National Climate Plans (NDC, NAP)	Call to Action and Commitments
Keep people safe by building strong schools, hospitals, and safe places that still work even when it floods or gets very hot. We should also dig special ditches to stop water from flooding homes, and build boreholes, water tanks, and toilets that don't get ruined by floods.	Adaptation and Resilience; Climate-Induced Mobility, Peace and Security
We also believe that more schools, hospitals, and safe spaces should be built in areas with very little, so our learning and safety can continue even when disasters strike.	
Create programs to help children stay hopeful and resilient	Climate-Induced Mobility, Peace and Security
Protect our communities and nature by using phones and radios to warn people before disasters happen, planting trees to clean the air, cleaning up our neighbourhoods, making rules to stop pollution and save animals, and making sure everyone can get emergency messages through strong network connections.	Nature and Technology-Based Solutions; Adaptation and Resilience
Keep everyone safe and healthy by fixing drains so dirty water doesn't spread sickness, helping children feel better after disasters by talking to them and giving support, and making special rules to protect people who need extra care, like the sick, elderly, or very young.	Climate Change and Health
We also demand access to mental health services and psychosocial support for children who have been affected by climate-related disasters.	
Enhance disaster preparedness with community involvement	Adaptation and Resilience
Help children keep learning by building strong schools in safe places that won't break during floods or heatwaves, sharing lessons online after big storms like cyclones, and using technology like phones, radios, and computers to make sure learning continues even when schools are closed.	Education

Peace and Security, Conflicts, Migration, IDPs & Refugees

Strategic Priorities and Calls to Action

Call I

Climate-Responsive Peace-building and Mediation: Embed climate analysis into peace agreements, mediation processes, and post-conflict recovery and support climate-smart livelihood continuity even in conflict-affected settings, framed under humanitarian principles.

Call II

Conflict-sensitive Climate policies, strategies, and frameworks: Joint risk assessment on climate and conflict early warning to mitigate potential climate-induced disputes and displacements and analyses causes and consequences of climate-induced conflicts across the continent and integrate climate-peace nexus finance.

Call III

Address Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration: *Integrate displacement realities into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), strengthen AU and regional frameworks for managing cross-border climate mobility, advocate for the recognition of the refugee definition to reconsider the climate induced asylum seekers and strengthen the IDPs, migrants and returnees support and coordination systems at national level*

Call IV

Operationalize the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus: *Institutionalize climate-peace programming within AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) by leveraging anticipatory action models to act before climate shocks escalate into displacement and conflict and promote multi-year, flexible funding streams that bridge climate-humanitarian relief, development, and peace building.*

Call V

Unlock Climate Finance for Fragile Settings: *Create a dedicated African Climate Finance Facility for fragile, conflict and displacement-affected areas while ensuring the facility is conflict sensitive, gender-responsive and accessible to all local actor and promote multi-year, flexible funding streams that bridge humanitarian relief, development, and peace building.*

Call VI

Strengthen Localisation and Indigenous Knowledge: Integrate traditional knowledge into conflict & climate early warning and anticipatory action systems, preventing resource-based conflicts before they erupt, provide direct, predictable financing for community-led adaptation, mediation, and peace building, elevate indigenous governance systems alongside formal peace and adaptation policies and recognize and incentivize local led solutions to climate and peace builders

Call VII

Elevate the Voices of Displaced and Refugee Populations: Redefine Africa's climate agenda through a conflict-sensitive and an inclusive lens that uplifts displaced and refugee voices in decision-making at local, national, and continental levels, ensure representation of displaced populations in national climate platforms, AU climate discussions, and Conference of the Parties (COP) negotiations and establish an independent entity for climate, IDP and Peace nexus.

Call VIII

Knowledge sharing and Data-Driven Action: *Invest in transparent, disaggregated climate-displacement data systems, links climate risk assessments to national development, disaster risk management, conflict incidents and peace-building strategies and establish a continental framework for indigenous climate knowledge exchange to inform practices and decision-making.*

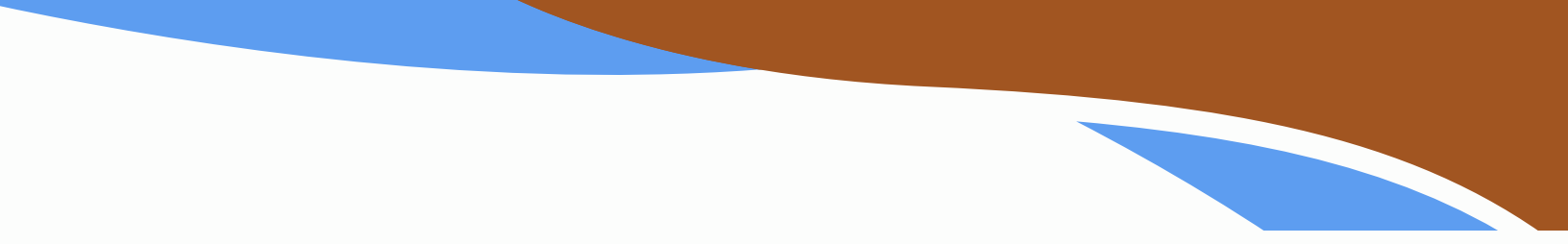
Africa Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Key Messages-Africa Climate Summit 2

Indigenous Peoples call for attention to be paid to their concerns, priorities, and contributions across the thematic areas of the Summit, as detailed below:

a. Renewable Energy & Energy Transition:

Indigenous Peoples bear most of the environmental and other costs of renewable energy investments in Africa (solar, wind, geothermal), which are implemented in Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories. *They call for the Summit to ensure that the design of renewable energy investments provides for commensurate benefits to, and protection of, their livelihood opportunities and human rights.* In particular, renewable energy investments should not undermine pastoral communities' access to rangelands and livestock mobility.



Furthermore, the Summit should take into account the role of rangelands as carbon sinks and protect them from conversion to inappropriate land uses. Indigenous Peoples also want to their concerns and priorities integrated in the design of carbon markets.

b. Sustainable Agriculture, Land, and Water Use

Indigenous Peoples call for investment in agriculture, land and water use to recognize, promote and secure their unique livelihoods and demands on these resources. They want to be actively engaged in the design of such investments, particularly in their lands and territories. They call for the investments to be designed in conformity with international, regional, and national norms that secure and protect their rights to land and natural resources. In particular, *they call on the Summit to stipulate that Indigenous Peoples' free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) shall be obtained for all investments undertaken in their lands and territories. They also call for equitable sharing of benefits accruing from such investments.*

c. Adaptation & resilience to climate risk

Indigenous Peoples of Africa have long histories of adaptation to climate change, and have accumulated knowledge, systems and practices that hold great potential for the design of interventions to promote resilience to climate risk. *They call for the Summit to recognize the contribution that their livelihood systems make to climate change adaptation in Africa, and to provide for integration of their knowledge systems, innovations, and practices into the design of programmes to promote climate resilience in Africa*

d. Climate Finance and carbon credits

Indigenous Peoples call for reforms to global financial systems and institutions to ensure that the investments in Indigenous Peoples' territories protect the livelihoods and human rights of Indigenous Peoples and the sustainability of the environment and natural resources, and that they share equitably in the benefits accruing from such investments. In particular, Indigenous Peoples call for the design of Adaptation Finance for Africa to provide for targeted funding to Indigenous Peoples, their land and territories.

To this end, they want to be actively engaged in the design of Innovative Models of Financing & Investments. They also call for specific protection to their land and resource tenure rights in the design and implementation of Mitigation Finance for Africa; and due consideration for their historical grievances in the discussions about Loss & Damage Finance.

e. Green Minerals & manufacturing

Indigenous Peoples call on the Summit to ensure that investments in green mineral and manufacturing do not undermine their lives, livelihoods and human rights, or their rights to their land and territories. *They call on the Summit to stipulate that in designing such investments, due regard shall be had to the ensuring that their continued access to land and natural resources is respected, protected, and secured, and that their Free, Prior and Informed Consent shall be obtained for such investments in their lands and territories.*

f. Sustainable Infrastructure & Urbanisation

Indigenous Peoples' land and territories have come under increasing pressures from infrastructure development and urbanization, as evidenced in particular by the impact of agriculture and development corridors on livestock mobility. Regional infrastructure, including roads, railways, ports and airports that cut through Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories, offers new opportunities for investments, employment and economic development, but they also have significant adverse impacts on traditional livelihoods. *Indigenous Peoples call on the Summit to stipulate that securing IPs' livelihoods is central to the sustainability of infrastructure development and urbanisation, and that this can only happen with the effective engagement of IPs in the design of such development, within the framework of FPIC.*

g. Nature Based Solution and Landscapes

Indigenous Peoples are the custodians of the majority of Africa's natural capital. Their land use, livelihoods systems and practices are closely adapted and aligned to the continued health of Africa's forests, rangelands, and biodiversity. *They call on the Summit to recognize this important role and to integrate Africa's IPs and their systems into programmes and investments to enhance the sustainable utilization of the continent's natural capital as a means of promoting climate-compatible sustainable development by ensuring Indigenous peoples participation in all nature-based solutions.*

Agriculture and Food Security Cluster

Key Recommendations for ACS-2

a. Integrate Agroecology into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

Many African countries are updating their NDCs and implementing NAPs. These processes must embed agroecology as a central strategy for adaptation and mitigation. Agroecology delivers co-benefits, it builds resilience, reduces emissions, restores ecosystems, and supports livelihoods, all while centring local knowledge and control (FAO, 2021). ACS 2025 can galvanise a coordinated continental push to ensure agroecological transitions are reflected in national climate plans.

b. Operationalise the Africa climate strategy and the African Union's Agenda 2063

The African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032) recognises the need for integrated, holistic solutions. Agroecology fits squarely within this vision and should be promoted as a flagship approach. ACS 2025 offers the African Union and member states an opportunity to commit to regionally coordinated agroecological programming, backed by policy harmonisation and capacity-building investments.

c. Redirect Climate Finance

Currently, less than 2.5% of global climate finance goes to small-scale producers, and even less to agroecology (Biovision & IPES-Food, 2020). ACS 2025 can be a turning point to demand targeted climate finance for agroecological transitions, particularly through direct access mechanisms for farmer organizations, women's groups, and youth-led enterprises. This includes pushing institutions like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and African Development Bank to shift their financing models in support of community-led climate solutions.

Agriculture and Food Security Cluster

Key Recommendations for ACS-2

d. Amplify Agroecology in climate negotiations

Africa's strong presentation at SB62 in Bonn, where agroecology was presented as a holistic climate adaptation pathway by African negotiators, must not lose momentum. ACS 2025 should reaffirm agroecology as a strategic African position heading into COP30, demanding its recognition in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework and within the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security.

Climate and Environmental NGOs

Key Messages

- (i) Invest in Africa's Full Range of Climate Solutions
- ii. Deliver Climate Finance Justice and End the Debt Trap
- iii. Close the Renewable Energy Investment Gap to Power All Africans
- iv. Build African-Owned Carbon Markets that are transparent and prioritize projects that deliver real benefits to communities and ecosystems
- v. Scale Up Nature-Based Solutions as Africa's Green Lifeline, securing land rights for Indigenous stewards and dedicated funding to scale and with dedicated financing
- vi. Secure Recognition of Africa's Special Needs in Global Climate Policy
- vii. Operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund with Direct Community Access
- viii. Empower Africa's Youth, Women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups as Frontline Climate Leaders

Key elements that should be captured in the declaration

- (i) Invest in African Climate Solutions: Allocate national resources toward ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, agroecology, renewable energy, and adaptation technologies, ensuring initiatives are designed and led locally.
- (ii) Negotiate Climate Finance Justice: Push collectively for grant-based financing, strengthen direct-access mechanisms, and advocate for debt relief to end the cycle of dependency.
- (iii) Expand Renewable Energy Access: Reform energy policies to attract clean investments, support decentralized energy systems, and raise Africa's renewable energy share to meet universal access targets.
- (iv) Regulate Carbon Markets in Africa's Interest: Establish strong regulatory frameworks that protect land rights, ensure fair pricing, and guarantee African ownership of carbon credits.
- (v) Integrate Nature-Based Solutions: Mainstream nature-based solutions in national climate strategies and allocate budgets to protect ecosystems, forests, and water systems.
- (vi) Defend Africa's Special Needs in Global Forums: Present a united front at UNFCCC negotiations to secure recognition of Africa's "special needs and circumstances."
- (vi) Operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund: Build transparent national systems to absorb and distribute funds directly to vulnerable communities.
- (vii) Empower Youth and Women: Institutionalise quotas in decision-making, and guarantee direct access to climate finance for youth- and women-led initiatives.

Explicit call on other Stakeholders (Financiers, Development Partners, and Private Sector)

- **Shift from Loans to Grants:** Deliver large-scale, predictable, grant-based climate finance that does not deepen Africa's debt burden.
- **Ensure Direct Access to Funds:** Simplify procedures and channel resources straight to African institutions, communities, youth, and women's groups.
- **Scale Renewable Energy Investment:** Commit to raising Africa's renewable share from 2% to 20% of global investment by 2030, with a focus on universal access.
- **Support Transparent Carbon Markets:** Provide technical and financial assistance to build fair, African-owned carbon trading systems.
- **Fund Nature-Based Solutions:** Prioritize long-term financing for reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management.
- **Fund agroecology** as a critical pathway to sustainable seed and food systems.

- **Support Loss and Damage Fund Delivery:** Operationalize the fund with clear, accessible channels for African countries and frontline communities.
- **Invest in Capacity Building:** Provide sustained funding for African-led training, innovation, and institutional strengthening.

Private Sector and Financial Institutions

Key messages and recommendations in ACS-2 to governments, development partners, and stakeholders:

a) Role of the African Private Sector in Green Economy & Energy Transition:

1. The private sector commits to investing in green economy initiatives and scaling up renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, hydro, and green hydrogen.
2. The sector calls for partnerships that enhance local manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, batteries, and green infrastructure to create jobs and reduce dependency on imports.
3. Businesses recognize their responsibility towards communities and commit to inclusive, sustainable practices that ensure benefits reach women, youth, and local entrepreneurs.

b) Enabling Environment by Governments:

1. Call on Governments to establish clear, predictable, and harmonized regulatory frameworks that encourage private investment in renewable energy and green industries. This must be reinforced by green investment incentives, including tax breaks, concessional financing, and blended finance mechanisms to accelerate private sector participation.
2. We further call for support for regional power-pooling initiatives to enable cross-border energy trade under AfCFTA and address infrastructure gaps in transport, logistics, and digital connectivity.

c) Financing Africa's Climate Transition:

1. Call for strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) for financing renewable energy and climate adaptation projects.
2. Leverage African financial institutions (Afreximbank, AfDB, commercial banks) to create green finance instruments tailored to African SMEs and cooperatives. Ensure equitable access to climate finance, with simplified procedures for small-scale businesses, women-owned enterprises, and youth-led start-ups.

d) Local Content, Innovation, and Technology:

1. Promote local content policies that ensure Africa's renewable energy transition creates domestic value chains in manufacturing, assembly, and maintenance.
2. Support innovation ecosystems by investing in African tech hubs, research institutions, and digital solutions for climate-smart agriculture, green transport, and the circular economy.
3. Enhance technology transfer and skills development for African youth and entrepreneurs to fully participate in the green economy.

e) Social Responsibility and Community Engagement:

1. Businesses reaffirm their commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards and to ensuring that communities benefit from green investments.
2. Strengthen collaboration with civil society and community-based organisations to ensure inclusive, participatory climate action.
3. Promote responsible mining, value addition and beneficiation for Africa's critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, rare earths) that are essential for global clean energy transitions.

f) Calls to Development Partners and the International Community:

1. Support Africa's transition by prioritizing investment in green industrialization and Africa's energy mix rather than only exporting raw renewable energy commodities.
 2. Increase climate finance flows to Africa, ensuring grants and concessional loans are prioritised over debt-creating instruments.
 3. Strengthen collaboration on carbon markets, ensuring Africa's fair participation and benefits.
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g) Strategic Recommendations to the African Union and RECs

1. Mainstream green economy policies in AfCFTA implementation to unlock continental trade in green goods and services.
2. Promote continental green industrial clusters and special economic zones (SEZs) that foster renewable energy innovation and production.
3. Establish an African Private Sector Climate Action Platform, under the AfBC in collaboration with PACJA, to track, report, and scale up private sector contributions towards Africa's climate goals.

Labour Movement Cluster

Core Demands

- **Guarantee Just Transition Pathways:** Ensure that all national, regional, and continental climate policies include concrete Just Transition plans developed through social dialogue with workers, trade unions, and employers. These plans must provide clear employment roadmaps and safeguard livelihoods during the energy and industrial transformations.
- **Protect Workers' Rights and Social Protection:** Embed labour rights, occupational safety, and comprehensive social protection systems—including for informal and precarious workers—into climate adaptation and mitigation frameworks.
- **Invest in Green Jobs and Skills Development:** Commit to large-scale investment in decent, unionised green jobs and accessible skills training. Prioritise the reskilling and upskilling of workers in sectors most affected by the transition, including energy, transport, agriculture, and manufacturing.
- **Finance Worker-Centred Climate Action:** Direct a fair share of climate finance towards adaptation, and Loss & Damage to support worker-led adaptation measures, social protection systems, and Just Transition strategies. Finance must be grant-based, transparent, and accessible.

- **Support Informal and Vulnerable Workers:** Recognize and support Africa's large informal workforce by ensuring their representation in climate decision-making, extending social protection, and providing pathways into the green economy.
- **Ensure Gender-Transformative Labour Justice:** Advance women workers' leadership in climate policy and ensure gender-responsive measures in all Just Transition processes, addressing care work, pay equity, and access to climate finance.
- **Regional Solidarity and AfCFTA Integration:** Leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to promote cross-border industrial policy, regional supply chains, and solidarity-driven worker protections that ensure no country or worker is left behind.

Call to Action

We call on African leaders at ACS-2 and COP30 to:

- Recognise trade unions and workers' organisations as essential partners in shaping climate policies and Just Transition frameworks.
- Institutionalise social dialogue as a mandatory tool for climate and energy transition planning.
- Commit resources to worker-led climate solutions, green job creation, and social protection systems.
- Champion a unified African Just Transition vision at the global stage that is grounded in workers' rights, gender equality, and sustainable livelihoods.

Cross-Cutting Recommendations for the Declaration

- (a) Sustained mainstreaming of inclusive participation of non-state actors in all climate and sustainable development policy dialogues to better enhance inclusive contribution to the development agenda.
- (b) ACS-2 must delineate clear flagship initiatives for the continent focused on sustained integration of sustainable land management, reversing biodiversity loss and strengthening climate action, all centered on imperatives of adaptation and scaled mobilization of climate finance

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- (c)** Adaptation and financing adaptation sits at the centre of all Africa's priorities and central to resilience building and African governments and all stakeholder must implement pragmatic actions to further this imperative.
- (d)** ACS-2 must be reinforced by a strong, accountable, and trackable framework of implementation and monitoring progress towards implementation of ACS-2 decisions and results on the flagship Initiative
- (e)** Call upon the global community to act with urgency in supporting Africa's just and inclusive green transition through accelerated green jobs and skills development by:
- Mobilizing dedicated and sustained climate finance for SME, Youth-led and Women-led enterprises as a central driver of green job creation, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.
 - Reinforcing investment in loss and damage financing to strengthen adaptation measures, safeguard livelihoods, and build the resilience of communities most affected by climate impacts
 - Partnering as Africa to replicate and scale proven Africa-led climate solutions with measurable targets for job creation, climate impact, and investment mobilization.
 - Ensuring that Africa's just transition strategies are designed, led, and owned by African institutions, with external support serving as a complement to African priorities, thereby safeguarding continuity against shifting global political and financial landscapes.
 - Implementing enabling policy and establishing regulatory environments that remove barriers to green enterprise growth and attract both domestic and international investment into job-creating sectors.
 - Embedding vocational, technical, and higher education reforms that align curricula with emerging green economy sectors, ensuring Africa's workforce is equipped with future-ready skills.

END
