

Background

Given current trends and climate predictions (see [2022 IPCC report](#)), Africa is one of the regions in the world most severely impacted by climate change and, at the same time, the most vulnerable. While repeated floods have been reported in Western and Southern Africa over the past few years, the East Africa region has been hit severely by droughts. At the same time, some islands have been experiencing regular cyclones, with Madagascar and Mozambique being the most recent victims added to the statistics. These weather extremes and shocks across the continent are set to intensify and increase in frequency and are threatening to reverse recent development gains across all economic sectors. Against this backdrop, Africa urgently needs to take head-on the challenge of resilience building and disaster risk reduction as essential pillars for sustainable development.

Under the guidance of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), Africa has joined the rest of the world community in the global climate change arena. Today, all African countries have ratified the Paris Agreement and are looking to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Despite countries' strong political will to act on climate change, much work remains to be done in implementing the NDCs and designing and implementing adaptation plans. Governments will not only require technical and financial assistance; support is also required in capacity building in climate change-related topics and technology adoption to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and leverage the synergies with their recently set food systems transformation ambitions.

In light of the increasing impacts of climate change on Africa's growth and development, the African Union Commission proposes to scale up support to efforts by African Union Member States to tackle the challenges of climate change, in particular, to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement. Under the framework of these continental efforts to drive climate action, AKADEMIYA2063 is hosting a Climate Policy Dialogue Series to facilitate high-level stakeholder engagement around strategic areas of the climate change agenda. This initiative will provide a platform for exchange on country and continental efforts and create stronger linkages for better alignment in the support of NDC and NAP implementation.

Objectives

The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the UNFCCC will take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from November 7-18, 2022.

An important area that deserves attention is assessing the continent's main policy priorities and what climate-centered critical choices and actions are needed. The urgency of developing the most feasible investment options while bridging the considerable data gap that hinders action against climate change in Africa is also essential.

As such, in the lead-up to the COP27, AKADEMIYA2063 is facilitating a consortium of organizations to co-design and run a series of "Climate Policy Dialogues" to offer African Think Tanks and Research Organizations an opportunity to reflect on the critical policy implications related to the current climate change negotiations at the global level. The thrust of this three-part series will be the facilitation of an approach that can inform and shape how the negotiations are prepared.

The dialogues will mobilize participation from policymakers, research organizations, farmer organizations, non-state actors' coalitions, development partners, think tanks, among others, and aim at delivering on the following specific objectives:

1. Assess and reflect on Africa's progress in climate change negotiations, as well as challenges, successes, and opportunities in advancing climate adaptation and mitigation outcomes following the Paris Agreement on Climate;
2. Analyze and map out the most critical policy priorities for the continent in adapting to climate change;
3. Review existing solutions and explore potentially innovative ones and analyze their scalability; and
4. Assess ongoing efforts and propose evidence backed key features of a climate financing mechanism suitable for Africa.

Key Deliverables

Key deliverables of the climate policy dialogue series will include:

1. A coalition of the like-minded institutions that will be willing to continue to engage technically around the topical issues beyond the COP27, with an agreed mechanism to co-create and share knowledge to inform action
2. A policy brief summarizing the outcomes of the dialogues, key messages, and a set of recommendations to be published ahead of COP27
3. A mapping of crucial climate change innovative policy solutions and good practices.
4. Updated status of investments' projections for strategic climate change actions
5. Proposed climate financing mechanism tailored to Africa's development needs

Working Topics for Dialogue Series

- *Dialogue #1: Food Systems and Climate Change: assessing readiness and policy lessons in global negotiations*
- *Dialogue #2: Climate Smart Agriculture: who is doing what in making adaptation work in Africa?*
- *Dialogue #3: Exploring features of climate financing mechanism: what works for Africa?*



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