



CLIMATE POLICY DIALOGUE SERIES

*Exploring African Policy
Priorities for Mitigation and
Adaptation Pathways: from
Paris to Sharm-El-Cheikh*

Co-organized by AKADEMIYA2063 and a consortium of partners



Concept Note

September 22, 2022

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 Dialogues 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?*

Climate Policy Dialogue # 1

September 22, 2022

"Food Systems and Climate Change: Assessing Readiness and Policy Lessons in Global Negotiations"

Background

In November 2021, the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26) was held in Glasgow, two months after the United National Food Systems Summit. While many anticipated this event to be "the last best chance" for resolving climate change, the Glasgow Climate Pact, unfortunately, did not live up to expectations of becoming a decisive turning point and is viewed by many as a failure. Nevertheless, as suggested by Jean-Paul Adam², not all was lost in Glasgow in the climate negotiations. Rather, he sees the upcoming COP as "the chance we must take, because there is global momentum on climate action, even if political action is still lagging". He suggests five key considerations that can help prepare for the COP27 aimed at building practical climate resilience interventions for African countries, including: (i) the delivery of a green recovery, (ii) upfront finance, (iii) Africa's energy grid as the key to unlocking growth, (iv) building resilience through adaptation to ensure economic viability, and (v) Africa to be rewarded for being net positive.

The COP26 established and launched a comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work program on the global goal on adaptation to (i) enhance national planning and implementation of adaptation, and contribute toward achieving the global goal on adaptation, (ii) enhance adaptation action and support, and understanding of the global goal on adaptation, including methodologies, indicators, data, and metrics, needs and support toward its achievement, and (iii) strengthen implementation of adaptation actions.

By adopting the African Union's Green Recovery Action Plan, Africa has attempted to offer a credible response to live up to the climate change challenge. In fact, the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) convened on February 6, 2022, in preparation for the COP27 and to deliberate on the outcomes of the Glasgow Climate Conference and the implications for Africa. This Heads of State and Government meeting served as a platform to receive updates from the African Group of negotiators on climate change and the African Climate Change Initiatives, and to consider recommendations to advance Africa's Climate Change and Green Recovery agenda (African Union, 2022). More specifically, the African Group was tasked to work with countries to reach a milestone by COP27 on the global goal on adaptation to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change (African Union, 2022).

¹ Co-organized by AUC-DARBE, AKADEMIYA2063, and FANRPAN

² Jean-Paul Adam, "5 ways Africa can prepare for COP27", [Africa Renewal](#), December 2021.

³ African Union, "African leaders push for adequate financial and technical support to address climate change challenges in the lead up to COP27", [Press Releases](#), February 2022.

Following the setbacks already suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, the multilateral process around climate change is now facing a new challenge as the world deals with the Ukraine crisis. This conflict and its many ramifications have exacerbated the disruption of global, as well as Africa's food systems already fragilized by climate change and other shocks that have hit the continent over the past few years.

Objectives

Against this background, the first dialogue of this inaugural series by AKADEMIYA2063, will be organized in partnership with the African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC- DARBE) and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). The session will take a closer look at the intertwining relationship between the resolve of the African continent to transform its food systems and its commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As such, this dialogue will seek, more specifically, to:

- i. Review the main stakes and highlight the importance of the upcoming COP27 for Africa, in the post United Nations Food Systems Summit agenda, and the momentum it has created to renew Africa's commitment to transform its agriculture;
- ii. Review main policy lessons for the continent and how much of the good practices have been successfully applied in Africa since its hosting of the COP17 in Durban;
- iii. Assess Africa's readiness, as a negotiating bloc, to play an active role in the global climate engagements at the COP27;
- iv. Reflect on some key insights that could help the negotiation team to strategize and meet expectations from the African constituencies



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