ACS 2

2025

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

DRAFT FINAL CONCEPT NOTE SECOND AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT (ACS2)

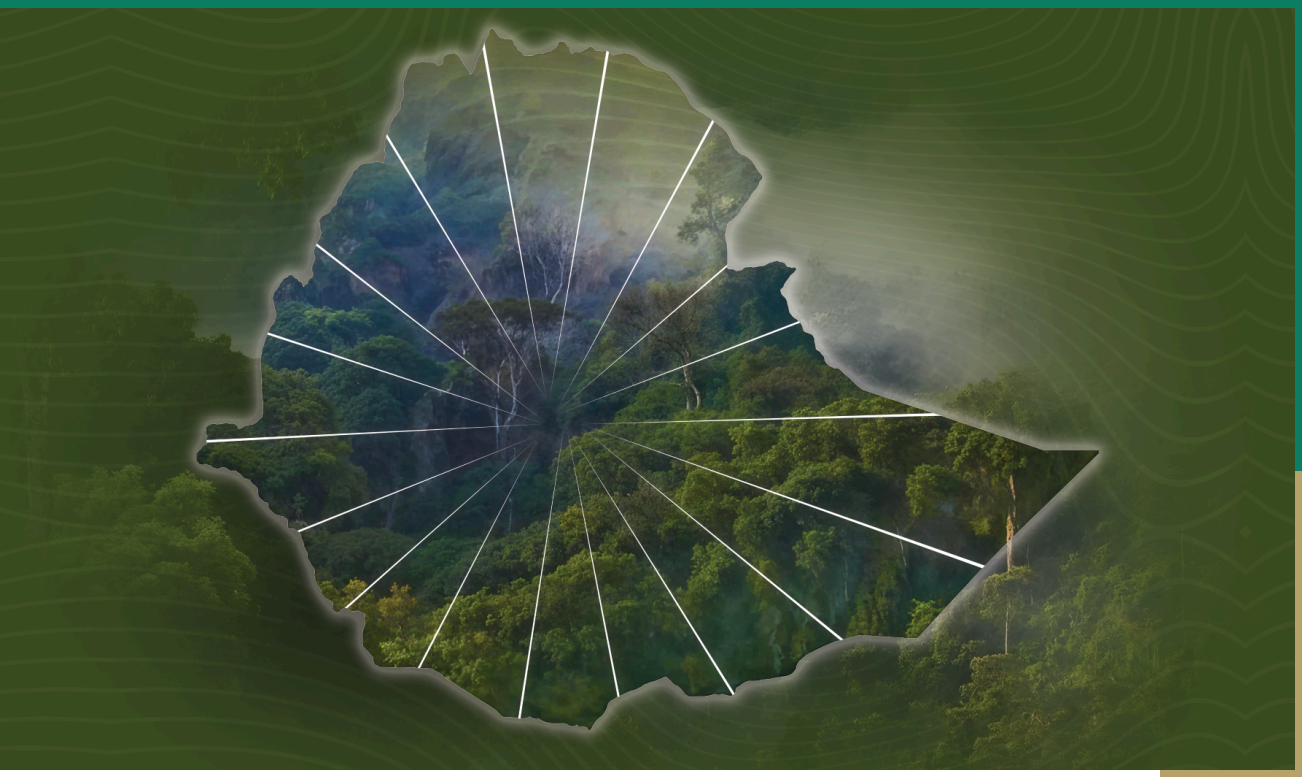
THEME:

ACCELERATING GLOBAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: FINANCING FOR AFRICA'S RESILIENT AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2

8–10 September, 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

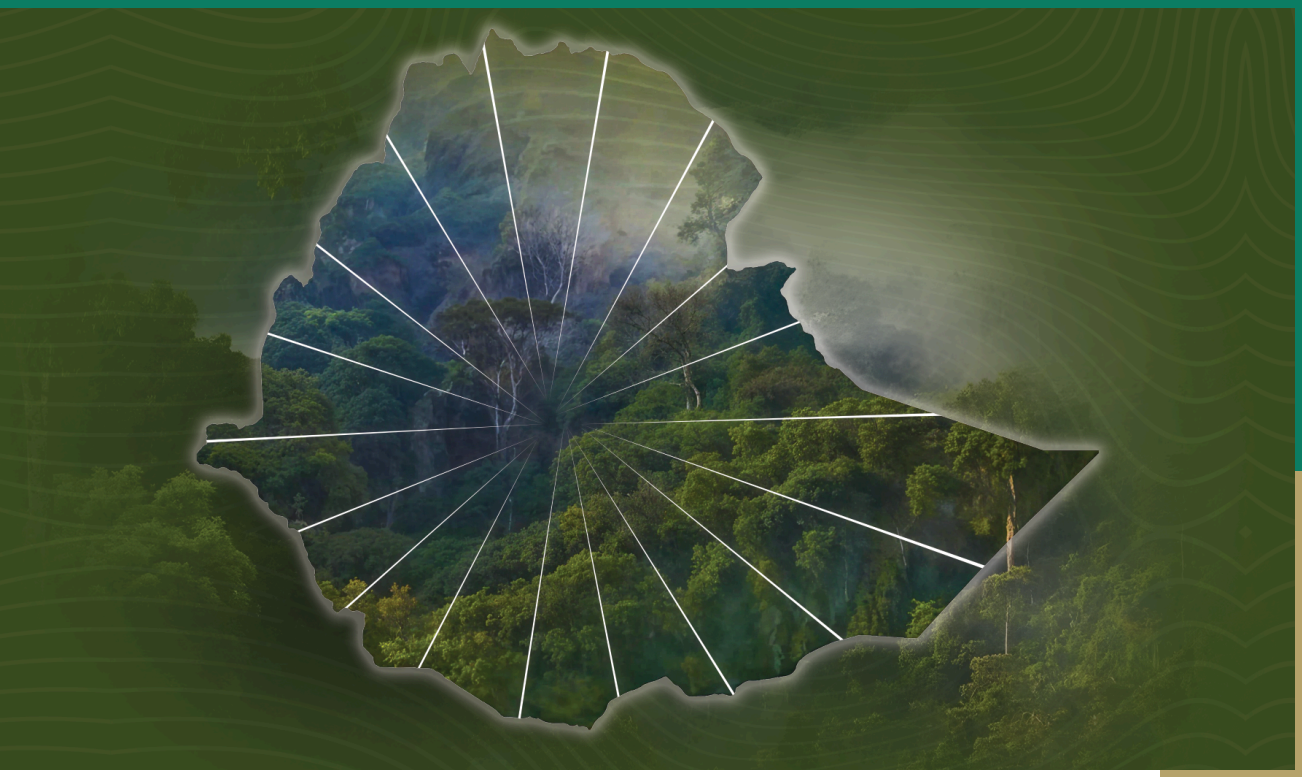
Ethiopia



1.Introduction

Ethiopia, the Land of Origins, and home to Africans, will host the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) convened by the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa from 8-10 September 2025. The Summit will be preceded by pre-summit events from 5-7 September 2025. The Summit will be structured around the following: nature and technology-based solutions to drive adaptation, development and resilience on day one; adaptation and resilience, spotlighting Africa's climate risks and scalable responses, on day two; and, climate finance and African-led solutions, shifting from aid to investment in local innovation, on day three.

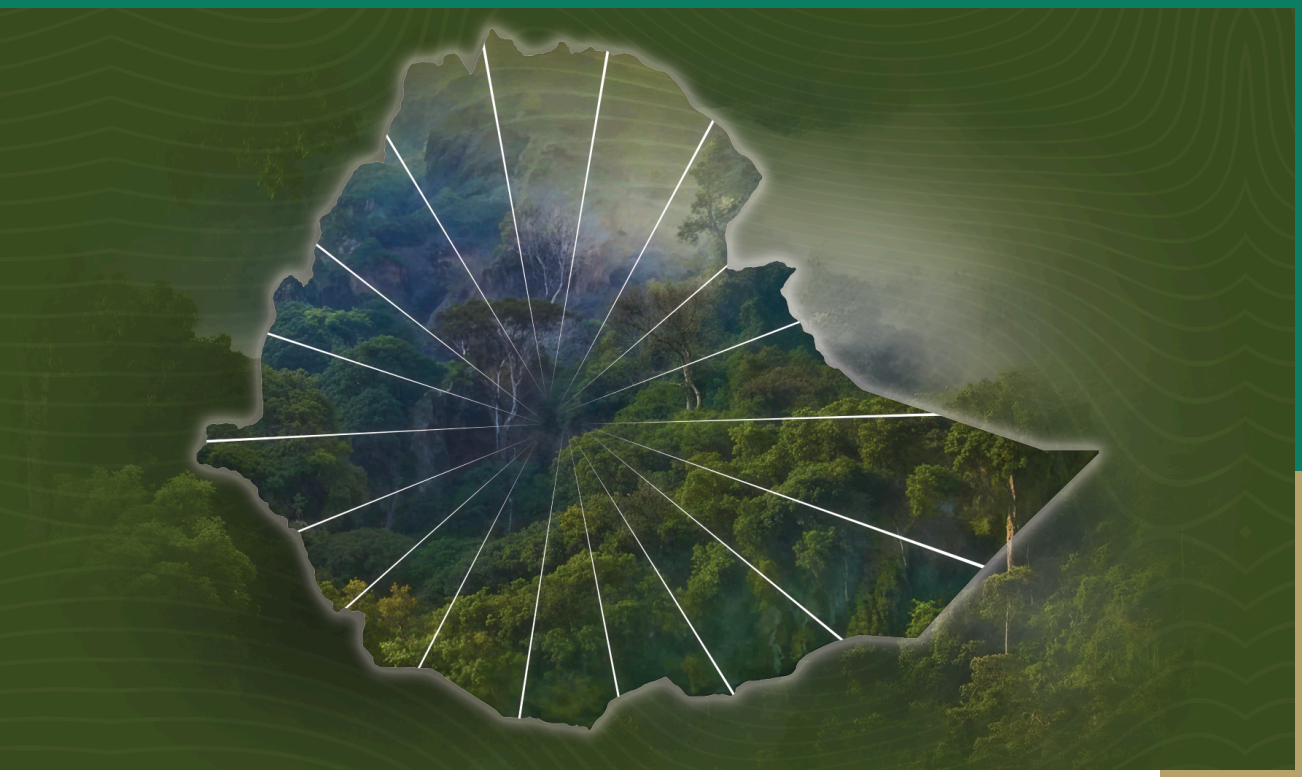
The ACS will bring together leaders from Africa and beyond: Heads of State and Government, development partners, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, academia, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, women, and youth. This diverse gathering aims to design and catalyze African-led solutions for climate change and deliberate on how to leverage both domestic and international climate financing, rooted in African priorities and local innovation, to accelerate implementation of existing commitments.



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Africa, a continent responsible for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, bears a disproportionate burden from climate change impacts, resulting in unpredictable weather patterns, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, and desert locust invasions. The 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR6) notes that Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced a 34% decline in agricultural productivity since the 1960s due to climate shifts, affecting the 60% of Africans reliant on rain-fed farming. Furthermore, the Congo Basin Rainforest, the world's second-largest carbon sink, is degrading at alarming rates, with deforestation claiming 500,000 hectares yearly, exacerbating biodiversity loss and carbon emissions.

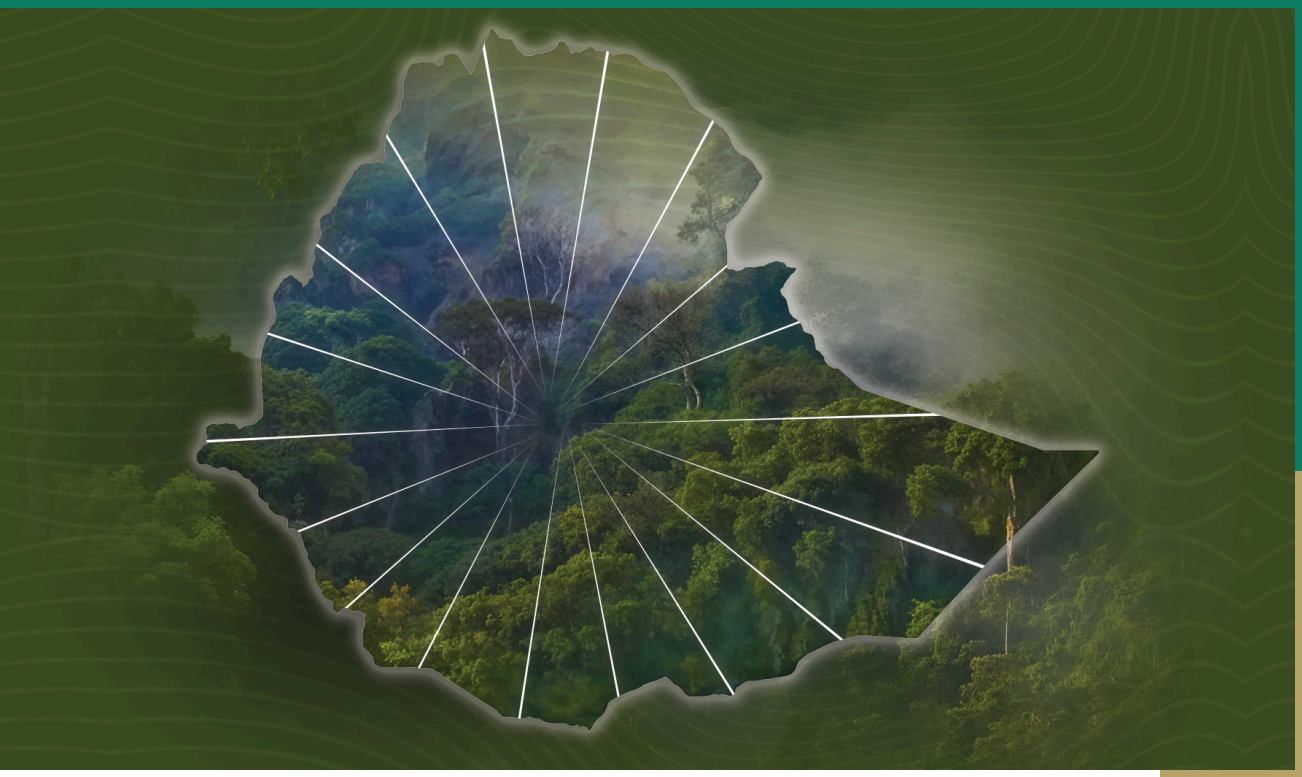
By 2030, African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) will require nearly US$3 trillion for full implementation. However, the climate finance received in 2021-2022 ($30 billion) shows the massive gap between the provided global climate finance against the priorities and needs of the continent. With African governments committed to mobilizing about 10 percent domestically, an immense gap of approximately 80 percent, or $2.5 trillion, remains to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation targets. This significant gap underscores the critical need for international support, alongside domestic resource mobilization, for African countries to meet their climate actions.



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African nations are however investing in scalable technological solutions to help fast-track results. These include digital climate-smart agriculture platforms, remote sensing for forest monitoring, solar-powered irrigation systems, and regional power pools to enhance electric connectivity and cross-border renewable energy trade.

Despite these immense challenges, African nations have spearheaded significant climate action. To name a few, Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative, planting 40 billion seedlings between 2019 and 2023, Kenya’s commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2030, the Democratic Republic of Congo's efforts to conserve the Congo Basin, and the Great Green Wall initiative, restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land and sequestering 250 million tons of CO_2 across the Sahel, exemplify proactive measures. These efforts, often exceeding Africa’s "fair share" under the climate change regime, yet the continent has, while calling for equity and climate justice, focused on home grown solutions.



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Recognizing the evolving global geopolitical and funding landscape, where traditional grant-based and aid models are diminishing, the Africa Climate Summit offers a critical opportunity to move beyond established narratives. In this context, regional cooperation and harmonized policy implementation are more important than ever. African countries must coordinate strategic partnerships and regional initiatives that align national actions with Africa’s collective climate and development goals, ensuring that climate resilience is pursued with shared accountability and mutual benefit. African leaders should proactively shape and champion innovative finance models, advocating for fairer debt terms, leveraging private sector investment, and developing continent-specific blended finance solutions. The Summit will strategically identify leverage points within global climate negotiations to champion these novel frameworks, ensuring Africa's climate agenda is underpinned by sustainable, equitable, and transformative financing pathways.

Building on key lessons from ACS1, the Summit will strategically anchor its agenda on solutions that Africa offers, spanning policy and implementation across diverse thematic components and their intersections. This approach shifts the focus to the continent's inherent potential and the opportunities it can leverage to achieve and surpass its climate ambitions.

2. Vision for ACS-2

The second edition of the Africa Climate Summit aims to serve as a platform to inform, frame, and influence commitments, pledges, and outcomes. The Summit will bring Africa's shared vision of climate action on advancing Africa led solutions and how to finance them, collaboratively championed by the AUC and Ethiopia as the host. The Summit emphasizes the need for Africa to harness climate financing strategies that address the impacts of climate change while contributing to both climate adaptation and mitigation interventions and ensuring green development. The Summit recognizes Africa's potential for global climate solutions, emphasizing the need for fair and equitable allocation of resources and support, particularly for African nations that have historically contributed the least to climate change but are disproportionately affected by its impacts, yet the continent has immense potential for climate change rectifications for the region specifically, and the globe in general.

The ACS-2 is Africa's moment to lead global climate action. Ahead of COP30 and building on ACS-1, ACS-2 will unify Africa's voice to shape global climate negotiations. It will push for fairer global finance systems, prioritizing renewable energy, nature-based and technology-based solutions, adaptation, and community-led solutions. This vision empowers African communities, especially youth and indigenous groups, to shape a prosperous, climate-resilient future. The Summit will seek to elevate the climate change crisis as a justice and fairness issue, resonating with the African Union theme of the year (2025), "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations".

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The ACS-2 is firmly guided by key principles, including a strong commitment to multilateralism and the imperative to restore trust in the global governance processes established to tackle climate change impacts. The Summit is built on principles that reflect a shift in how climate action is approached: It upholds international rights frameworks, providing the legal and moral foundation for just and equitable climate action; recognizes the interdependence of nations and the need for a new, respectful model of sustainable development that reduces emissions in developed countries, scales up adaptation efforts, and ensures access to green technologies for the world's most vulnerable; prioritizes transparency and accountability, ensuring that climate policy decisions are informed by science and responsive to the needs of low-income countries; and, champions partnerships that promote nature- and people-centred investments, offering innovative and sustainable solutions to climate challenges.

The Summit will call upon all policymakers and stakeholders to present course-correcting solutions for mobilizing political and financial actions to combat the climate crisis. Positioned ahead of COP30, the Summit will consolidate Africa's voice and elevate it as a unified force in international negotiations. It will catalyze long-overdue reforms in the global financial system, advocating for new mechanisms that reflect Africa's realities and priorities, particularly in renewable energy access, climate adaptation, and resilience. ACS2 will also deepen South–South cooperation and foster a new era of global partnerships rooted in equity, innovation, and African-led solutions. The long-term impact will be a strengthened continental position that not only influences COP30 but also institutionalizes Africa's leadership in global climate governance.

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As a high-level event bringing together leaders and investors from Africa and beyond, the Summit aims to leverage potential opportunities that yield concrete, actionable, and impactful climate action interventions. African Union Member States and supporting partners are called to champion the delivery of a sustainable climate financing mechanism and to seize this opportunity to elevate climate-resilient and green development initiatives while pursuing equality and shared prosperity, recognizing that Africa's climate resilience is integral to global stability and sustainable development.

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They are further called to build effective partnerships between Africa and other regions to meet the needs for financial, technical, technological support, and knowledge sharing for climate-resilient and green development across the continent. The Declaration and outputs from this event will aim to serve Africa's and the globe's ambition and be submitted for consideration at the next UN General Assembly, G20, and COP30.



3. Unlocking Scalable Climate Finance and Showcasing African Solutions

ACS2 will be built around two strategic pillars that drive the core purpose of the Summit: showcasing African solutions for climate action; and, unlocking scalable climate finance.

(a) Showcasing African Solutions for Climate Action

The Summit will highlight homegrown innovations, policies, and practices that are driving real progress across the continent. From nature-based approaches to cutting-edge technologies, and from community resilience to green enterprise, with the aim of bringing visibility to what African countries and actors are already delivering. This pillar includes, amongst others, the following potential solutions:

- **Nature-based solutions:** the Summit will underscore how nature-based solutions including carbon markets offer distinct pathways for climate finance in Africa, each with unique advantages that the continent can explore. Nature-based solutions, like reforestation, afforestation, and land restoration, leverage the power of ecosystems to build resilience, mitigate climate change, and provide co-benefits.



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- **Technology-based solutions:** the summit will shed light on technology development and innovations including renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture and improved agricultural practices, that can directly reduce emissions and enhance adaptation capabilities. Emphasis will also be placed on building the knowledge base and technical skills required to deploy and scale these solutions effectively across the continent.

- **Locally led adaptation initiatives:** the summit will provide an opportunity to explore approaches to calling up the use of direct access modalities to build local ownership and support access to means of implementation through capacitated and empowered national and subnational institutions, without passing through international intermediaries. This also includes investment in locally led adaptation, prioritizing vulnerable communities like women and Indigenous groups.

- **Solutions in relation to climate induced mobility, peace, and security nexus:** Africa recognizes that the climate mobility-peace-security nexus presents a potential opportunity for mobilizing adequate and sustainable financing crucial for addressing climate challenges and enhancing Africa's climate-resilient development. This is because climate change exacerbates existing conflicts and creates new vulnerabilities in Africa, impacting peace and security and climate-related migration.



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- **Solutions in relation to climate change and health nexus:** The climate change and health nexus present a significant opportunity for leveraging climate finance to address both global warming and its associated health impacts. By integrating climate adaptation and mitigation efforts with health systems, investments can be maximized, and co-benefits realized.

- **Equity & Just Transition:** Just transition narrative needs to consider the realities and concerns of Africa in addressing historical inequalities, including the urgent need to expand access to reliable, affordable electricity for the hundreds of millions still living without power. It's important to ensure global dialogues on just transition bring Africa's story to the forefront bringing communities are not left behind as economies shift toward low carbon growth, emphasizing development and social justice. Africa's just transition must be rooted in development justice and Equitable Energy Transition: phasing out fossil fuel in a manner that expands decent work, protects vulnerable livelihoods, closes the energy access gap and ensure sustainable development. The Summit will prioritize social dialogue with trade unions, youth, and informal sectors, and advocate climate investments that create local value chains, expand access to electricity, foster equitable transitions for fossil fuel-dependent regions, and support skills-building for a climate-compatible economy.



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(b) Unlocking Scalable Climate Finance for Climate Action

The summit will push forward concrete ways to mobilize and align large-scale funding with Africa's climate priorities. This means tackling barriers in access to finance, building stronger investment pipelines, and promoting new financial instruments that work for African contexts. The goal is to enable African countries to scale up what works, deliver more ambitious climate action, and drive sustainable economic transformation.

This pillar includes, amongst others, the following approaches:

- **Reforming Grant-Based Climate Finance:** The Summit will explore whether current grant-based climate finance is fit for purpose. It will provide space to interrogate where course corrections are needed to better align grant flows with Africa's priorities. The focus will be on making grants more accessible, targeted, and effective in driving impact on the ground. It will also look at gaps in the current architecture and propose ways to ensure grants deliver real value to African countries and communities.



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- **Building Climate Resilience:** The Summit will emphasize the need for achieving climate resilience in Africa that requires proactive risk anticipation, community empowerment, and strategic investments in early warning systems and climate services, all aimed at building long-term adaptive capacity and safeguarding sustainable development against climate shocks. Africa's path to climate resilience demands a transformative agenda, one that strengthens institutional systems, empowers communities, and integrates scientific knowledge into decision-making. This includes fortifying climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, including climate-resilient seed and livestock breeding systems, urban and rural health systems, and resilient infrastructure such as buildings, roads, and water systems, alongside local governance institutions that underpin both rural livelihoods and urban stability. Early warning systems (EWS) offer a critical opportunity for climate financing by improving preparedness and reducing the impact of climate-related hazards, ultimately saving lives and reducing economic losses. Investing in EWS is a form of adaptation and resilience building, which can unlock additional funding for climate adaptation projects. Climate services will also provide science-based information about climate that informs decision-making, offering a significant opportunity for climate financing. By investing in and strengthening climate services, countries can improve their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the costs of inaction, thus justifying the need for climate financing.



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Achieving climate resilience in Africa requires a set of strategic enablers that support effective planning, implementation, and adaptation. First, climate finance planning and budgeting are critical to align national priorities with scalable and bankable climate investments, enabling countries to attract both domestic and international funding. Second, the shift toward impact-based forecasting, which goes beyond predicting weather events to assessing their societal, economic, and ecological impacts, empowers decision-makers to act proactively and allocate resources effectively. Third, capacity building across institutions, communities, and sectors which ensures that stakeholders have the knowledge, tools, and technical capabilities to design and execute climate-resilient development strategies. This is in line with strengthening systems behind the adaptation policy cycle, as called for under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and now central to delivering the Global Goal on Adaptation.



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- **Enabling policy reforms and strengthening institutional capacity:** The Summit will explore potential reforms that attract private investment, boost SME access to climate finance, and support green mineral value chains, including efforts to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of local miners and processing industries, positioning Africa as a key player in the geopolitics of the energy transition and ensuring equitable participation in global supply chains. It will also address the risks of externally driven reforms that could pressure least developed countries into policy changes not aligned with their long-term development goals. The focus will be on reforms that are country-led, balance investment needs with public interest, and safeguard national priorities. Moreover, the Summit will spotlight national and local capacity, a prerequisite for absorbing and managing climate finance. Building trusted and transparent institutions will help ensure effective use of funds.



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- **Mobilizing the private sector:** Africa recognizes the significance of the private sector in achieving both climate targets and securing levels of finance required. The Summit will explore potential concrete actions that governments can take to incentivize private sector participation in climate action. These would include developing a sustainable taxonomy that helps direct investment but allows financial players to identify, track and validate their sustainable, green or blue activities; strengthening NDC pipeline of bankable projects that translate investment needs into specific investment projects ready for financing; and supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are constrained by access to finance but have massive growth potential.



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- **Collaboration and partnership:** Besides enhancing South-South collaboration, the Summit will explore North-South partnerships and the significance of NDC Coordination Committees which can lead to improving institutional capacity and coordination issues related to climate action. Additionally, the Summit will enhance collaboration with international organizations, including UN agencies, bilateral institutions and MDBs, which can increase support, to address technical or skills gaps that can enhance the capacity of national and local actors to develop sustainable climate-resilient project pipelines. It will also serve as a platform for public diplomacy, helping reposition Africa's climate agenda as an opportunity for investment and innovation rather than vulnerability and risk.

4. Expected High Level Outputs and Outcomes

This Summit is a pivotal moment for Africa to reshape its role in the global climate finance landscape - not only for the continent but for the globe as well. The Summit provides an opportunity for an African Leaders Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating Global Climate Solutions and Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development accompanied by a Call to Action, urging African Union Member States and development partners to lead its implementation.

The summit will seek to achieve the following high-level outcomes:

- Position Africa as a unified force to influence COP30, G20, and UNGA outcomes.
- Drive concrete reforms to scale grant-based climate finance
- Showcase African-led climate solutions with potential for global impact
- Strengthen national and local systems and country platforms to manage and deliver climate finance
- Build strategic partnerships to support just transition and climate justice across the continent

These outcomes will be reflected through the following outputs:

I. Adoption of the African Leaders Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating Climate Action and Finance for Africa's Green Future and Call to Action.

II. Launch of flagship Report on initiatives and strategic partnerships for national, regional, continental and global levels.

III. Mobilization of green investment commitments, including showcasing of multi-billion-dollar projects across various sectors

IV. Announcements of progress on major ongoing continents and international climate global initiatives.

V. A clear roadmap for the implementation of the Summit's declaration, announcements, and investment commitments

5. Call to Action

The second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) is a high-level convening of leaders, implementing entities, partner organizations, and investors from Africa and the globe. Its central aim is to accelerate climate action by identifying scalable solutions and unlocking transformative, scalable, and impactful climate finance solutions, particularly for the continent's most vulnerable populations.

The Summit calls upon African Union Member States and their partners to:

I. Contribute to and champion the outcomes of the ACS-2 to ensure that they're tailored to Africa's unique needs and priorities

II. Seize the opportunity to elevate climate-resilient and green development initiatives as a vehicle for equity, prosperity and long-term sustainability

III. Build and strengthen effective cross-regional partnerships to meet the needs for financial, technical, technological and knowledge-based support; and

IV. Ensure that the commitments made at the summit are actionable and aligned with Africa's broader development goals

The three-day summit will focus on:

The three days of the Summit underscore essential strategies for tackling climate challenges in Africa and how finance can be leveraged to scale climate action structured as follows:

Day 1 (8 September): Nature-Based Solutions, Technology, Energy & Resilient Infrastructure

This day focuses on harnessing Africa's natural capital and technological innovations to drive green growth. It emphasizes positioning Africa's ecosystems and clean technologies as pivotal engines for decarbonization and sustainable development, integrating natural ecosystems with technological advancements to create resilient infrastructure.

Day 2 (9 September): Climate Adaptation & Resilience

This day confronts the urgent need to strengthen Africa's resilience to climate impacts. Integrating scientific knowledge and nature-based approaches, it explores scalable solutions to enhance community adaptation and safeguard development. Key themes: Food Systems, E-mobility, Sustainable Cities, and Minerals.

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Day 3 (10 September): Climate Finance & Africa led Solutions.

Focused on unlocking capital and elevating homegrown innovation, this day seeks to transform climate finance from mere aid to strategic investments in local solutions. It promotes financial mechanisms that empower African nations to effectively tackle climate challenges through community-driven initiatives.

Pre-Events (5-7 September): Inclusive Climate Action

These pre-events prioritize centering marginalized voices and community-led solutions in climate governance. They aim to ensure that grassroots actors including women, youth, Indigenous groups, and local communities actively co-design climate strategies. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, these sessions strive to create equitable and representative climate initiatives.

Together, these events aim to forge a comprehensive framework for sustainable climate action in Africa.

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