Terms of Reference

African Development Bank Civil Society Coalition on Climate and Energy

1. Context and Justification

The African Development Bank (AfDB) recognizes the essential role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advancing Africa's climate and energy agenda. In preparation for **COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**, African civil society networks and coalitions came together to coordinate a common vision and strengthen Africa's voice in global climate processes. Building on this momentum, the **AfDB Civil Society Coalition on Climate and Energy** was established as a structured platform to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and joint advocacy between the Bank and civil society.

The Coalition brings together thousands of organizations through its member networks, comprising experts and practitioners working on climate change, renewable energy, just energy transition, and sustainable development. It offers a unique space where civil society perspectives are systematically integrated into the Bank's policies, strategies, and operations, ensuring that the needs and priorities of Africa's most vulnerable communities are addressed.

Membership of the Coalition remains open and inclusive, with organizations able to join upon request to the Coalition's Coordination, which is currently hosted by the **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)**.

2. Mandate

The Coalition is mandated to:

- Serve as the principal platform for structured engagement between the AfDB and civil society on climate and energy.
- Support the Bank in ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in its climate and energy operations.
- Amplify African civil society voices in continental and global climate processes, including the UNFCCC COPs and AfDB Annual Meetings.
- Facilitate coordination among African CSOs, fostering a unified voice and stronger influence on policy and investment decisions.

3. Objectives

1. **Policy Influence and Advocacy**
    - Shape and influence the Bank's policies, strategies, and investments on climate and energy.
    - Ensure grassroots perspectives inform continental and global policy processes, including the COPs.
2. **Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building**
    - Produce and disseminate joint knowledge products on themes of interest such as renewable energy, just energy transition, energy access, and climate resilience.
    - Strengthen the advocacy and technical capacity of African CSOs.
3. **Accountability and Monitoring**
    - Monitor and provide independent oversight of the Bank's climate and energy commitments.
    - Promote transparency, social inclusion, and environmental safeguards in AfDB-financed projects.
4. **Partnerships and Coalition Building**
    - Foster collaboration between CSOs, governments, the private sector, and the AfDB to accelerate access to clean and affordable energy.
    - Strengthen regional and cross-sectoral coalitions to advance climate justice and sustainable energy access.

4. Expected Results

The Coalition is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Stronger civil society participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring of AfDB's climate and energy strategies.
- Evidence-based knowledge products that inform policy and investment decisions.
- Enhanced alignment and coordination of African CSOs on climate and energy advocacy.
- A credible and representative civil society platform actively contributing to continental and global climate dialogues.
- Tangible contributions to Africa's just energy transition and the achievement of AfDB's strategic priorities.

5. Membership and Composition

The Coalition's membership includes a broad range of African civil society networks, coalitions, and organizations. These members collectively represent **thousands of grassroots organizations across the continent**, with expertise spanning climate change, renewable energy, energy access, sustainable development, and social inclusion.

The Coalition is composed of regional and thematic networks that have regrouped to provide a coordinated African voice, notably in the lead-up to COP27.

Current members include:

- **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)**
- **Panafrican Farmers organizations (PAFO)**
- **Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA)**
- **ENDA**
- **Youth Love Egypt**
- **EcoTrust**
- **AU Youth in Climate**

Membership remains **open**, and organizations may join by submitting a request to the Coalition's Coordination, currently assured by **PACJA**.

6. Participation in Global Processes

The Coalition actively participates in global climate processes, including the **UNFCCC COP negotiations**, where it has been present at **COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh**, **COP28 in Dubai**, **COP29 in Baku** and is preparing for **COP30 in Belem**. It also engages in AfDB Annual Meetings and other strategic dialogues, ensuring that Africa's civil society perspectives are well represented.

7. Guiding Principles

The Coalition's work is guided by the following principles:

- Inclusivity and representation of diverse African civil society voices.
- Transparency and accountability in its engagement with the AfDB and partners.

- Evidence-based advocacy rooted in African realities and priorities.
- Partnership and solidarity among members, with a focus on collective action.