CSO Civil Society forum

Engaging Civil Society for Climate Resilience & Just Energy Transition in Africa

6&7 Oct. 2022

Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Hybrid format

CONCEPT NOTE

1. BACKGROUND

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are increasingly involved in forging strategic partnerships with governments, businesses donors, and are, to a large extent, engaged in official consultative processes at regional and continental levels. Indeed, civil society has a diverse role to play in Africa's social and economic transformation and over the past decades, civil society in emerging economies has grown into a dynamic, innovative, and influential ecosystem with increased power beyond their traditional role and sector. Consistent with the global shift in terms of technology, globalization, geopolitics and emerging markets, the roles and responsibilities of civil society in Africa have evolved. In the quest to efficiently address pressing issues, CSOs are increasingly seen not only as advocates or service delivers but also as enablers for change, policy influencers, project incubators, experts and implementing partners taping into their proximity to the majority of Africa's vulnerable populations.

In response to this increased civil society engagement and in close dialogue with CSOs, the African Development Bank has since 2009 organized an annual Civil Society Forum.

In 2019, the Bank undertook the evaluation of the Civil Society Forum over the last 10 years. The main recommendations were focused on the need for the Bank to get closer to the populations it intends to serve, engage further and be impactful to the populations at the base of the pyramid.

In 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic the Civil Society Forum was organized virtually. This edition was championed at the highest level by the President who reaffirmed the Bank's strong commitment to civil society engagement by calling for concrete and measurable outcomes and expressed his intention for the next forum to see tangible results, with civil society organizations sharing their experiences on how they have collaborated with the Bank to deliver on tangible results.[1]

[1] Six (6) commitments were endorsed by the Bank on CSE 1) Strengthening institutional capacity; 2) Supporting CSOs on advocacy; 3) Strengthening engagement at community level on projects; 4) accelerating access to finance for women; 5) Strengthening engagement with CSOs on social and environmental safeguards; 6) Strengthening engagement with CSOs on anti-corruption and governance

In 2021, the Bank organized 5 regional Civil Society Forum in lieu of the continental annual Civil Society Forum. The regional Civil Society Forums stems from the Bank's desire, through people-centered approach, to be closer to the people it serves. This was an opportunity for the Bank to share its regional vision and priority areas that inform its operations and explore key opportunities for strengthening civil society engagement at the regional and national level. The effort to decentralize this activity allows the Bank to close the communication loop and ensure that its development priorities are commensurate to those of the majority of the populations in Africa that it serves. The Regional Civil Society Forums promoted intra-regional dialogues on an unprecedented scale, fostering frank, productive and action-oriented conversations among the Bank staff and CSOs.

2. RATIONALE OF THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The African Development Bank values the perspective of civil society organizations in terms of the increasingly important role of climate change considerations and renewable energy as a good basis for Africa's sustainable development. *The Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2013–2022)* focuses on inclusive growth and the transition to green growth. Accordingly, the Bank places particular focus on sustainability which is central to its work as evidenced by several projects that were approved, reached financial closure, or completed in recent years.

The importance of Civil Society Engagement is also emphasized in the Bank's 3rd Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026). This includes the need for synergies and complementarities amongst Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus partners to advance conflict prevention and resolution, reinforce social cohesion in fragile contexts and nurture inclusive approaches that leave no one behind. CSOs have an important role as agents for peace and prosperity by empowering the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, comprising youth, women, forcibly displaced and hosting communities, amongst others.

Although Africa contributes the least to carbon emissions, it is the world's most vulnerable region - and the continent bears a disproportionate burden of the impact of climate change. This includes devastating floods, severe droughts, and pest invasions. The recent International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports (2021 and 2022) have dramatically shown how harshly the climate crisis is hitting the most vulnerable. To date, 7 out of the 10 most vulnerable countries are in Africa, and 10 of the top 12 countries most at risk to droughts globally are in Africa.

Despite Africa's high and well-known climate vulnerability, the continent receives only a paltry 3% of global climate finance. Adaptation and resilience-building is central to Africa's fragile economies, whose vulnerability has been exacerbated by climate change. Loss and Damage arising from climate change has emerged as a key issue among the continent's stakeholders. Further, at global stage, adaptation and resilience are yet to gain the same prominence as mitigation, as global attention has largely been skewed towards mitigation which receives 90% of global climate finance.

In addition, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Determination of the Needs of Developing Country Parties report is clear that Trillions are needed to address climate action. Yet, international community failed to keep their promise to ramp up climate finance to $100bn a year by 2020. According to their delivery plan, the $100bn level would be reached only in 2023, three years later than promised.

To improve Africa's access to global climate finance and accelerate adaptation action, key challenges need to be overcome, including weak capacity; lack of governance and coordination; lack of prioritization of climate change in national development plans; lack of appropriate business models to support private sector investment in adaptation; and lack of accountability towards the populations.

From November 6 to 18, 2022, Egypt will organize the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate (COP27). This conference will be decisive in particular for the countries of the south and particularly the African countries to make their voices heard and to advance on the crucial issues for the continent, namely adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance. For a shared vision on climate change and a more audible African voice, it will be necessary to have a good understanding of the issues of the negotiations by all the stakeholders, in particular non-state actors, more particularly African civil society, to inform, mobilize and raise awareness as many people as possible and make COP27 a top priority on the international climate agenda this year.

This year, the COP27 will be organized in Africa. By putting the climate issue at the forefront on the agenda of its 2022 Annual Meetings on the theme "Achieving Climate Resilience and a Just Energy Transition for Africa", the Bank is giving itself the means to support the continent for this major event. In addition to its traditional role of supporting States and experts from the continent for climate negotiations, the Bank has engaged all actors including civil society in order to bring together all the synergies to raise Africa's position in this COP27.

Egypt has recently intensified its discussions with African countries to determine the continent's needs ahead of the COP27. This is an important commitment to deliver an inclusive COP27 that would produce tangible results that would achieve a qualitative leap for the African continent in the issue of climate change.

The Bank is fully committed to civil society engagement as this is one of the most effective way of ensuring inclusive economic growth and a rapid transition to green growth across the continent. COP27 (the “Africa COP”) presents a golden opportunity for humanity to turn the tide against this existential threat and a global platform for all of us to amplify Africa’s voice and common position on climate change.

This year’s Civil Society Forum will therefore be held under the theme ***“Engaging Civil Society for Climate Resilience and Just Energy Transition in Africa”*** aligned with the Bank’s agenda on the climate change and Energy transition prism and is a common theme running from the Civil Society Regional Forums held in 2021. The Regional Forums identified climate finance, energy transition and climate resilience as important topics to be discussed further in 2022.

The 2022 Forum will provide opportunities for Civil Society, the Bank, African leaders, International Institutions and African Climate Change Champions and Ambassadors to share their views on the role of Civil Society on the issue of climate adaptation for resilient growth in Africa, discuss key challenges, options and mainly opportunities to engage Civil Society on this substantial agenda.

3. FOCUS AND APPROACH OF THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The 2022 Civil Society Forum will provide a framework for the Bank and CSOs for structured dialogue toward the COP27 and showcase CSOs best practices at the community level.

3.1. FOCUS AREAS OF THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Under the climate change theme, the 2022 Forum will focus on the following four sub-themes that have the potential to aggregate all of these concerns in a cross-cutting manner :

- **Building Climate Resilience and Support for Rural development:** The Role of Grassroots Networks and Community Based Organisations

- **Gender & Climate Finance: From barriers to actionable solutions**
- **Inclusive and Transformative Food systems in Africa:** Addressing climate change and adaptation for local agricultural communities/smallholder farming
- **Just Energy transition:** Roles of African Development Bank, African Civil Society and other Stakeholders.

The four sub-themes are identified under special circumstances for Africa in terms of perspectives and with a particular emphasis on adaptation. They have the added value of serving as entry points for realistic and high-impact actions, both at the continental, national and especially local levels, on improving the lives of communities.

Each theme shall be further developed as an issue paper to orient the discussions for joint engagements between the Bank and CSOs. The focus areas, sessions and all related Forum work-streams will also mainstream conflict and context sensitivity.

THEMATIC 1. BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: ROLE OF COMMUNITIES AND GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS

- Grassroots-level organisations and communities on the frontline often have the best comprehension of local vulnerabilities and the contextually appropriate resilience responses to address them.
- Pragmatic and equitable adaptation and resilience action requires women, youth, disabled, displaced, and Indigenous peoples to be at the heart of design, decision-making, and implementation.
- Through collaboration with various networks, partnerships, organisations and initiatives, the Bank is, through an inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement, working to amplify the crucial importance of local adaptation and provide support to the actions being taken by communities around the continent.
- This session will share best practices and discuss ways to amplify the voices of communities on the frontlines of climate impact. This is crucial to ensuring inclusive and transformative resilience that accelerates climate justice and a just transition.
- Issues to be considered: Fragility, Vulnerability, Local development and community engagement.

THEMATIC 2. GENDER & CLIMATE FINANCE: FROM BARRIERS TO ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS

- Women account for more than 50 percent of Africa's combined population, but in 2022 generated only 33 percent of the continent's collective Gross domestic product (GDP). In addition, they are often disproportionally affected by climate change impacts, largely due to persisting gender norms and discriminations.
- A study carried out by McKinsey global institute revealed that $12tn could be added to global GDP by 2025 by advancing women's Equality. According to the African Development Bank Group, eliminating gender inequality and empowering women could raise the productive potential of one billion Africans, delivering a huge boost to the continent's development potential.
- Therefore, over the past several years of the international climate change negotiations it has been established and agreed by governments across the world, who are Parties to the UNFCCC, that gender equality and ensuring women's human rights are necessary to effectively act on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, UNFCCC has adopted the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and Gender Action Plan (GAP). Parties are committing to gender equality in their climate action, and the GAP provides a roadmap of activities where that commitment can be demonstrated
- Gender in the NDCs of African countries has also seen progress. For example, 74% of countries have recognized women's role and empowerment in their 2020/2021 NDCs, compared to 37% in 2015, and 71% of African countries have included gender considerations in mitigation and adaptation actions, targets and indicators, compared to 3% in 2015.
- A gender perspective needs to be considered when developing resource mobilization strategies, applying climate finance instruments, and ensuring equal participation in the deployment of financial resources, particularly at the local level.
- At the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI56) during the UNFCCC intersessional negotiations taking place in Bonn (June 2022) and at COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh (November, 2022) an intermediate review of the progress of implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) activities will be conducted.
- This session could make a major contribution to the discussions to be held at COP 27 on how to foster a gender perspective when developing resource mobilization strategies, applying climate finance instruments, and ensuring equal participation in the deployment of financial

resources, particularly at the local level.

- It would also be an opportunity to highlight flagship initiatives that support locally-led action on gender and climate change and improve women's opportunities to participate in the green economy, notably through ensuring that women benefit equally from development projects focusing on clean technology renewable energy, climate smart agriculture and financial inclusion
- Issues to be considered: Equity, Access to finance, Women Negotiators on Climate, Social innovation, The Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan
- Best practices on Gender and Climate finance: CSOs funded by Bank's ACCF, AFAWA, Transition Support Facility (TSF), Training for women negotiators at COP27.

THEMATIC 3. INCLUSIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group's contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) shows that agriculture is negatively impacted by climate change, thus hindering the ability of populations to meet human needs, notably in Africa. Climate change is indeed threatening the livelihoods and food security of millions of farmers, especially smallholders, reducing crop yields and increasing the incidence of animal diseases. In only a few years, this could lead to higher food prices, up to 84% by 2050, and increased livelihood insecurity for farmers, especially in low–and middle–income countries. Climate change is also affecting soil health and reducing biodiversity, two essential elements for food production.
- The profile of agriculture, land use, and food systems in addressing climate change was raised in 2021 through the UN Food Systems Summit and COP26 in Glasgow. However, with severe climate impacts on agricultural systems and a looming global food system crisis, public finance providers must deliver concrete plans and finance for agricultural resilience
- Long-term investments for dealing with climate change in agriculture, livestock and food systems are critical, and the enabling environment for mobilizing resources to implement action at the local, national and international level needs to be improved, taking into account different agricultural systems and national circumstances.
- In 2022, with the AU Commission's Year of Nutrition and COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh highlighting the critical need for finance for mitigation and adaptation, there is a clear opportunity to bridge

climate and food security, creating lasting, high-quality avenues to support agricultural adaptation, grounded in an African led agenda.

- This session will explore how concrete interventions can build resilience to climate change and equitably feed the continent. It will also discuss how to effectively reach smallholders with appropriate climate smart technologies and what finance mechanisms are needed to support climate actions and achieve co–development benefits in food systems without causing harm
- This session will be also a contribution to the ongoing dialogue on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) which is the first substantive outcome and UNFCCC COP decision in the history of the agenda item on agriculture which has been under negotiation since 2011. The draft decision will be under consideration and adoption by COP 27 in Egypt
- Issues to be considered: Green economy, Bank's Special initiatives (TAAT, SAPZ…), Agro-business Vs Family farming, food security, Experience sharing (PAFO regional networks…).
- Best practices and Success stories: Co-existence of Small, Medium and Commercial Farming; Adaptation strategies.

One of the key elements of the African position discussed on the lead up to COP 27 is the great need to scale up the implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies in an inclusive, participatory approach that includes farmers, indigenous people, local and vulnerable communities, especially women and youth, and that combines scientific and traditional knowledge. These three sessions will contribute that debated.

THEMATIC 4. JUST ENERGY TRANSITION: ROLES OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.

- There is wide-spread understanding that to achieve sustainability and green development pathways, the energy system as we know it will need to profoundly change. Crucially, 70% of the energy sector contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and thereby the climate crisis. Hence, the energy transition has been at the forefront of global policy discourses surrounding the transition, seen as a crucial enabler of sustainable development and climate resilience. Accordingly, there have been incessant calls for an energy transition.
- Yet, Africa has huge development gaps to close in numerous facets and needs to do so urgently

as well as, crucially, at scale. The overwhelming majority of the global deficit in electricity access is in Africa. With 17% of the global population, Africa accounted for merely 3.2% of the over 27,000 terawatt-hours of electricity generated, and 3.4% of the primary energy consumed globally in 2019. Close to 600 million Africans still do not have access to basic electricity, hundreds of million more lack access to electricity for productive use. Addressing this urgent energy deficit remains a pivotal priority of the continent. Without a more equitable approach that speaks to Africa's realities and context, Africa's economic development and shared prosperity will continue to be significantly constrained, putting at risk the attainment of the goals of Agenda 2030 and the 2063 Agenda.

- Notwithstanding, African countries remain active members of the global community at the forefront of the climate challenge and are committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement, with all African countries having signed it. It is critical for Africa to overcome the mutually reinforcing challenges of solving its energy crisis and tackling climate change.
- Many countries in Africa remain heavily reliant on diesel/Heavy Fuel Oil to meet their energy needs, and any opportunity to shift away from these expensive, high carbon emitting sources should be welcomed. Yet, as a cleaner bridging fuel, African countries with domestic natural gas reserves need to be able to develop these as part of their neighbors'—strategies to meet national imperatives. Investing in gas thus needs to be part of Africa's just transition strategy in helping it tackle energy deficits whilst concomitantly enhancing climate action.
- Renewable energy can support economic development, innovation, and improved access to energy services across Africa. But the shift to an economy underpinned with energy efficiency and renewable energy will bring change on many levels. We need to ensure that the benefits and impacts are evenly distributed, analyse where inequity may occur and work collectively to ensure widespread transition that is just and fair.
- The prevailing narrative on just transitions conveys it as a generally 'win-win' situation whereby growth need not be decoupled from a clean environment, particularly in the context of Africa as the continent is encouraged to harness its bountiful renewable energy resources, necessitating it to forgo further exploitation of its fossil fuel resources. Further, as Africa is largely 'un-locked' into carbon-intensive production processes, the argument is that it would make the transition more palatable by saving it from retrofitting woes that more advanced economies are contending with.

- The ability to determine the speed, scale and timing of the transition will matter, as will the relevant knowledge and skills to enable significant transition decisions to be taken.
- Issues to be considered: the African perspective of just energy transition, the role of African Development Bank (Energy policy, climate change action plan, etc) and the African Civil Society (Proposal Force, Alternatives, Accountability), the roadmap on the way to Cop27.

3.2. APPROACH OF THE SESSIONS OF SUB-THEMES

Each session will be organized on the format of roundtable and shall last for about 2 Hours.

The Vice-President of the Agriculture, Human and Social Development Complex (AHVP) will frame the thematic roundtable session with a keynote introductory presentation.

- Up to three (3) “Conversation Starters” who will kick off each session with brief remarks lasting up to 10 minutes per speaker.
- Open Discussions will follow on the main issues raised and pre-identified questions.
- The session shall enable the Participants to engage in an interactive dialogue on the subject, facilitated by a Professional Moderator.
- The session will be opened to the online audience for questions, comments, and contributions.

The outcomes of the roundtables are set as following:

- Agree on Actions Plan with key realistic and measurables actions to be implemented
- Identify key actions and key messages for the COP27
- Prepare a resolution on each theme to be presented at Cop27 based on lessons learned from COP26 and COVID19, in line with CSOs and Bank agreed agenda.

4. DATES AND FORMAT OF THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Civil Society Forum will be organized from **06 to 07 October** on hybrid format.

This year’s CSO Forum is co-financed by the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC) Trust Fund.

The African Development Bank manages KOAFEC Trust Fund in close cooperation with the Korean Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Panelist, Bank's Civil Society Committee members and guest of special sessions shall meet physically.

Main audience across the Continent shall remain virtual through the Bank's dedicated platforms. An IT mobile app is under development.

5. AGENDA OF THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The agenda will be organized around various events:

- **Opening ceremony**:
  - Official launch of the Forum with Officials
  - Conversation between the President of the Bank, Special Guests and CSO Champions
  - Presentation of a video on CSE achievements by the Bank and CSOs
- **Update on the Bank's engagement** with Civil Society & Accountability in light of the Bank's commitments on CSE
- **Roundtable Events on the 4 thematic**: Climate Resilience - Gender and Climate finance – Food systems - Just Energy Transition
- **CSO led-sessions**
- **Closing ceremony**: Take-aways and way forward.

6. TASK FORCE TOWARDS THE 2022 CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

A Task Force in the spirit of the One Bank's approach have been put in place to support the organization of the Forum (and pre-forum), under the supervision of VP-AHVP and VP-PEVP.

The Task Force shall include the President's Office; AHVP Front Office; Secretariat General; ECAD; URPR; PCER; CHIS; SNSP; PIAC, BCRM; SNSC; ECGF; RDTS, PSEC; PSEG; SNOQ, CHLS and other relevant Departments and Units.

AHGC2 will serve as Secretariat of the Task Force.

The Task Force shall meet as required to agree on the final proceedings and way forward.