GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

CSO Civil Society Société Civile

West Africa Civil Society Regional Forum 2023 (Hybrid)

"Engaging Civil Society in Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa"

Terms of Reference

1) Background and rationale

In response to the increasing role and responsibilities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in emerging economies and to foster dialogue with this key stakeholder group, the African Development Bank has since 2009 organized annual Civil Society Forums. The Forums bring together civil society representatives from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations in contributing to development efforts and to discuss their evolving developmental priorities for their respective countries/regions.

In 2019, the evaluation of the Civil Society Forum over the last 10 years highlighted the need for the Bank to get closer to the populations it serves, to engage further and to be impactful to the populations at the base of the pyramid. To mirror this, the Bank has been alternatively organizing regional Civil Society Forums since 2021, as an opportunity to adopt a more people-centered and proximity approach, while sharing its regional vision and priority areas that inform its operations. Key opportunities for strengthening civil society engagement at regional and national levels were also explored.

The theme of the 2023 Regional Forums is closely aligned to that of the Bank's 2023 annual meetings as follows *"**Engaging Civil Society in Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa**".* The Bank recognizes that the private sector can play a crucial role in mobilizing finance for climate and green growth in Africa. However, there is a need to engage civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure that private sector investments are aligned with the development needs of local communities and that they promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

The specific West Africa context calls for an inclusive, participatory policy dialogue with a wide range of development stakeholders, especially civil society. 9 out of the 15 West Africa countries are defined as transition states, the highest rate in Africa. Vulnerability to drought, desertification and water scarcity, especially in the Sahel, are the main climate issues that pose significant challenges to socio-economic development. In this context, the West Africa RISP 2020-2025 underscores the need to continue to mainstream the cross-cutting issues of gender, fragility, food security and climate change for an inclusive, sustainable development, while focusing on the two following priority areas: (i) enhancing resilient cross-border infrastructure ; (ii) supporting regional enterprise development.

2) Objectives of the RDGW Civil Society Forum

The overall objective of the 2023 regional forums is to foster collaboration between civil society and the private sector to drive sustainable and green economic growth in Africa, taking into account the specific context and development priorities set for the region.

Specifically, the RDGW Civil Society Forum shall provide a platform for:

- Presenting an overview of the Bank's climate change and financing for the green growth strategy with a community engagement lens
- Presenting the outcomes of the Bank's Annual Meetings on unlocking private sector finance and harnessing natural capital to finance climate and green growth and their implications for the West Africa region
- Presenting and sharing CSOs experiences on the ground related to climate change and financing of green growth in the region
- Deliberating on challenges and existing opportunities and future roles for Civil Society Engagement that can enhance the relevance, inclusivity, impact, and quality of the Bank's operations in climate change, adaptation, and financing for green growth
- Adopting key recommendations and conclusions with concrete areas on which the Bank can engage with CSOs in West Africa, in preparation for CoP28.

3) Expected Outcomes

- Increased knowledge and understanding of the Bank's climate change and green growth strategy especially linked to private sector finance
- Clear policy recommendations and avenues for collaboration and partnership with CSOs to foster private sector financing for climate action, with an emphasis on fragile states, preponderant in the West Africa Region
- Clear Action plan towards COP28 and beyond

4) Draft Agenda and participants

Time	Session	Panelists/Participants
	Day 1	
10H00-10h30	**<u>Opening Session:</u>** • Opening speech • Opening remarks	**Zeneb TOURE**, AHCC2 Manager **Joseph Martial Ribeiro**, DG RDGW
10h30 11h15	**<u>High-level session and Q&A:</u>** Climate, green growth and private sector financing	**Moderator** **Joseph Martial Ribeiro**, DG RDGW **Romuald WADAGNI**, Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Economie et des Finances **Nana Asantewa AFADZINU,** Bank-CSO Committee Regional

		representative for Western Africa **Private sector champion**
11h15-11h30	**Coffee break**	
11h30-12h00	**<u>Presentation by regional office:</u>** Presentation on climate change, adaptation and financing and green growth strategy and the status of its implementation in the RDGW	**PECG**
12h00-12h45	**<u>Panel discussion:</u>** **Civil Society-Private sector partnership for climate financing**	Regional CSO Climate Change Network Representatives x3 Private sector representatives x2
12h45-13h45	**Lunch break**	
13h45-14h00	**<u>CSE session</u>** The Bank's commitments on enhancing CSE	**AHGC2**
14h00-14h30	**<u>Accountability session</u>** Update on the outcomes of previous forums Takeaways from the first Bank-CSO joint participation at COP27	**AHGC2 and CSO Committee representative**
14h30-15h15	**<u>Experience sharing session and Q&A:</u>** Ground experiences from CSOs and private sector representatives (ESG policies implemented, collaboration with civil society…)	**CSOs** **Private sector champions**
15h15-15h30	**Closing session of the day**	**Moderator**
DAY 2		
10h00-10h15	**<u>Opening session for day 2:</u>** Recap of Day 1 Programme for Day 2	**Moderator**
10h15-11h15	**<u>Capacity-building session and Q&A</u>**	**Edward Nsobe, AHCG2**

11h15-11h30	**Coffee break**	
11h30-12h15	**<u>Thematic session on Fragility and resilience:</u>** *Policy, Resource Mobilization, and civil society's capacity needs*	**RDTS** **CSOs**
12h15-13h00	**<u>Thematic session on Environmental and social safeguards:</u>** *Policy, Resource Mobilization, and civil society's capacity needs*	**SNSC** **CSOs**
13h00-13h45	**<u>Thematic session on Gender and Women Empowerment:</u>** *Policy, Resource Mobilization, and civil society's capacity needs*	**AFAWA** **CSOs**
13h45-14h00	**<u>Final panel discussion:</u>** Summary of key takeways from the Forum Recommendations for COP28	**Moderator** **All CSOs (tour de table)**