



NON-STATE ACTORS PRE-AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT-II MEETING

Outcome Statement

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | May 15, 2025

Theme: Accelerating Momentum Towards the Second Africa
Climate Summit (ACS-II)



Preamble

Convened by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the Consortium for Climate Change-Ethiopia (CCC-E), in collaboration with other partners, African Non-State Actors¹ (NSAs) met in Addis Ababa on May 15 and 16, 2025, to prepare and strengthen their role in the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-II).

After two days of reflections and strategy-building, participants drawn from diverse socio-economic, political, and cultural backgrounds across Africa adopted the following statement:

Reflecting on the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS-I) held in Nairobi in 2023, participants recognized it as both a milestone in African convening power and a missed opportunity to anchor a future vision rooted in African priorities;

Acknowledging that the ACS, as mandated by the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), is intended to serve as a platform for shaping Africa's climate agenda in alignment with its aspirations, needs, and priorities;

Deeply concerned by the mounting challenges Africa faces—particularly in adaptation, securing climate finance, expanding energy access, and the intensified competition for critical minerals essential to the energy transition;

Recalling that while Africa contributes least to climate change, it suffers the most from its impacts; and noting with alarm the continued expansion of fossil fuel investments in the Global North, the inadequate and inaccessible adaptation finance, and shrinking civic space;

Alarmed by the persistent failure of developed countries to meet climate finance commitments, and the gross underfunding of the Loss and Damage Fund;

Conscious of growing global uncertainties—including shifting election cycles, the rise of anti-Africa, anti-climate movements in the Global North, and the weakening of multilateralism, requiring Africa to act with greater self-determination and strategic coherence;

¹ Comprising the faith-based organisations, youth networks, women movements, the research and academic community, conservation and nature solutions organisations, local communities, indigenous peoples, labour movements, health actors, African private sectors, African CSOs/ NGOs and farmer organisations, child focused organizations

Concerned by the crippling debt burden facing African countries, which undermines their ability to respond to the climate crisis and implement the SDGs;

Noting Africa's limited influence in global climate geopolitics, particularly in holding developed countries accountable for delivering on the 1.5°C target;

Disturbed by the entrenched inequalities in the global financial system, including in climate finance, which marginalize countries with limited fiscal space and hinder their transition to resilient, sustainable societies;

Recognising the opportunity presented by global calls for debt cancellation and reform of international financial systems—especially during this Jubilee year;

Alarmed that many global governance institutions remain outdated and ill-equipped to respond to climate realities, which increasingly disrupt socio-political priorities;

Worried that the scramble for critical minerals is contributing to instability in Africa, undermining progress in climate action, the SDGs, and Agenda 2063;

Rejecting exclusionary, top-down approaches that overlook the complexity of systemic climate challenges and reaffirming the value of systems thinking, decentralization, and community-based action;

Welcoming the opportunity that COP30 presents to renew the spirit of the Rio Conventions, advance the Global Goal on Adaptation, and prioritize just transition as a catalyst for inclusive prosperity;

Inspired by President Lula da Silva's 2024 G20 call for a new global pact on long-term climate cooperation and implementation of the Paris Agreement;

Calling for a shift away from slow, bureaucratic models towards innovative governance approaches that leverage networks, aggregate efforts, and mobilize resources;

Affirming the critical role of NSAs in upholding integrity, advancing implementation, and supporting Parties in meeting the aspirations of the Paris Agreement;

Determined to institutionalize inclusive stakeholder engagement across all critical climate processes;

Resolved that Africa must no longer be relegated to the margins of climate action, but reassert itself as a driver of global solutions based on equity, justice, and home-grown innovation;

Encouraged by the African Union's designation of 2025 as the "Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparation" and its alignment with the global push for climate and economic justice;

Framing 2025 not only as a year of negotiation, but as a pivotal moment of global alignment and cooperation for sustainable development;

Welcoming the commitment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to host ACS-II with a focus on inclusion, strategy, and African-led solutions;

Affirming our role as NSAs to support and enrich the ACS-II process in alignment with Ethiopia's call for clear voices, aligned priorities, and collective dignity on the global stage;

Mindful of the intersecting crises shaping our times, and the outcomes of diverse NSA deliberations continent-wide;

We declare as follows:

I. Our Shared Vision for Africa Climate Summit II

We envision ACS-II as an inclusive, transformative platform that anchors bold, actionable strategies that respond to Africa's unique context, needs, and aspirations. In this regard, ACS-II should:

Strategically Reposition Africa in Global Climate Geopolitics

The Summit should enable Africa to leverage its collective voice, natural assets, and demographic dividend to shape global negotiations and assert its geopolitical agency in climate diplomacy. It should mark a shift from the perception of Africa as a vulnerable region to its recognition as an enabler of climate action. This means strengthening the African negotiating bloc, amplifying shared interests, and challenging narratives that marginalize the continent.

Ensure an Africa-Driven, Inclusive, and Participatory Process

ACS-II should be deeply rooted in African ownership, conceptualized, led, and shaped by Africans for Africa. A two-month lead-up process should be established to enable inclusive dialogue across all regions and sectors, creating space for diverse actors, including civil society, academia, traditional leaders, private sector, women, youth, and indigenous communities, to contribute meaningfully. This participatory process will transform contention into consensus and enable a unified position going into COP30.

Address Root Causes of Climate Vulnerability Through Community-Centric Solutions

Rather than narrowly focusing on emissions or mitigation, ACS-II should prioritize addressing the structural drivers of climate vulnerability, such as poverty, inequality, extractivism, poor infrastructure, and weak governance. The solutions must be grounded in the lived experiences of communities across Africa, ensuring that policies and financing mechanisms directly respond to local realities and enhance adaptive capacities.

Promote Gender-Responsive Climate Action

The Summit must centre gender justice by recognizing the differentiated impacts of climate change on women, girls, and marginalized groups, and by amplifying their leadership in solutions. Women and girls must not be passive recipients of aid but co-creators of policy and practice. This includes targeted financing for women-led initiatives, gender-sensitive budgeting in climate action, and legal reforms to ensure equitable access to land, finance, and technologies

Outline a Blueprint for Inclusive, Green, and Low-Carbon Development

The Summit should define a continent-wide transition pathway that embraces green industrialization, renewable energy, circular economies, and sustainable mobility. This blueprint must prioritize inclusive growth, ensuring that green jobs, skills development, and infrastructure investments benefit poor and marginalized communities while contributing to climate goals.

Secure People-Centered Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stewardship

ACS-II should recognize biodiversity as foundational to livelihoods, health, and resilience. People must be at the heart of biodiversity strategies—particularly indigenous peoples and rural communities who act as custodians of ecosystems. The Summit should commit to equitable benefit-sharing, legal protection for customary land rights, and financing for nature-based solutions that align conservation with human well-being.

Institutionalize Intergenerational Dialogue and Youth Co-Leadership

ACS-II must institutionalise intergenerational exchange, ensuring that young people have decision-making power, not tokenistic roles, in shaping Africa's climate vision. Dedicated youth platforms should inform the Summit outcomes, and countries must commit to building long-term leadership pipelines by investing in climate education, entrepreneurship, and innovation among youth.

Advance Indigenous Knowledge and Local Innovation for Climate Solutions

The Summit should elevate traditional knowledge systems that have enabled communities to live sustainably for centuries alongside modern science, promoting co-creation of solutions that are culturally relevant and ecologically sound. Priority areas include agroecology, food sovereignty, water harvesting, and resilient architecture. Local innovations must be supported with finance, intellectual property protection, and access to markets.

II. ACS-II Must Deliver Tangible Outcomes for Africa

The Africa Climate Summit-II should be a bold platform for delivering concrete, transformative, and people-centered outcomes that advance Africa's leadership in climate action. We urge the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission to prioritise the following deliverables:

Justice-Centred Loss and Damage Finance

The operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 and COP28 was a step forward, but its current design lacks the justice lens that Africa has long demanded. ACS-II must call for the renegotiation of the Fund's governance and financing mechanisms to reflect principles of equity, historical responsibility, and reparations. Africa must push for sustained, predictable, and non-debt-creating financing for communities already experiencing irreversible climate harm.

Enforcement of Climate Finance Commitments

Africa must demand clear timelines and accountability mechanisms for developed countries to meet and exceed their \$100 billion pledge, mobilize at least \$300 billion per year by 2035 for climate action, commit to a fast-tracked revision of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) by 2030, and agree on a new target of \$1.3 trillion annually by 2030, with a minimum threshold for public, grant-based financing.

Operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Adaptation must no longer be the “forgotten pillar” of the Paris Agreement. ACS-II should champion a comprehensive Global Goal on Adaptation at COP30 that includes clear metrics for progress, mechanisms for financing and technology transfer, enforcement frameworks for accountability, alignment with national adaptation plans (NAPs), and strong linkages to locally led adaptation initiatives

An Africa-tailored just transition agenda	ACS-II must define a continental Just Transition Framework that enables countries to craft context-specific pathways, promote energy sovereignty by expanding access to affordable, clean energy, ensure that labour rights, social protections, and livelihood transitions are embedded in climate and energy policies.
Critical Minerals for Development, Not Exploitation	The global rush for Africa's critical minerals must not reproduce extractive models of the past. ACS-II should position critical minerals as a strategic resource for Africa's green industrialization, push for value addition and beneficiation under the AfCFTA framework, promote responsible mining practices that protect human rights and ecosystems, call for a high-level continental dialogue on the peace, security, and governance implications of the minerals boom.
Strengthening African Financing Mechanisms	To reduce overreliance on external finance, ACS-II must reflect on national and regional climate finance facilities that are homegrown, innovative and complementary (not a replacement) of global climate finance mechanisms.
Innovation, Science, and Knowledge Systems	ACS-II should advance African-led research that integrate indigenous knowledge systems with emerging technologies; local innovations in agriculture, water management, and climate risk modeling; South-South knowledge exchange to scale proven solutions and investment in scientific institutions to enhance climate research capacity.
Reframing Climate Finance from an African Perspective	ACS-II should propose a continent-wide definition of climate finance based on need, equity, and justice; reject greenwashing and the commodification of climate solutions; insist on finance that respects common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and is guided by principles of transitional justice; and ensure climate finance is accessible, flexible, and suited to African systems of governance and delivery.
Establishing a Continental Framework for Accountability	To improve transparency and guard against misreporting, ACS-II should lead in, creating a continental climate finance tracking system, monitoring debt-linked climate instruments to prevent double-counting, aligning development and climate finance with national priorities and ensuring that financing strategies reflect African values of equity, solidarity, and self-determination.
Inclusive Green Economic Empowerment	ACS-II should commit to mainstreaming micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in green value chains; developing financial instruments tailored for women- and youth-led enterprises; promoting green entrepreneurship and innovation hubs across the continent; and linking social enterprise models with community resilience strategies in climate hotspots.

III. The Critical Role of Non-State Actors (NSAs)

Non-State Actors, including civil society organizations, community groups, youth movements, faith-based institutions, private sector players, academia, indigenous peoples, and informal networks, are

indispensable to the legitimacy, effectiveness, and long-term success of Africa's climate agenda. Their proximity to communities, policy expertise, and advocacy power make them critical partners in shaping and delivering the outcomes of ACS-II.

To ensure the Summit is inclusive, grounded, and impactful, we call on the Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission to take the following actions:

Embed NSA Voices in All ACS-II Processes	NSAs must be systematically included in every stage of the Summit process, from planning and agenda setting to implementation and monitoring. Their participation should not be symbolic but institutionalized through formal seats in technical working groups, steering committees, and high-level consultation platforms.
Convene Broad-Based Dialogues to Build Momentum and Consensus	A continent-wide mobilisation of NSAs is critical to ensure that grassroots voices shape the Summit's priorities. We propose online and in-person consultations across all subregions; pre-summit forums tailored for specific constituencies (e.g., youth, faith groups, pastoralist communities, women's networks); and regional webinars to consolidate and harmonize inputs. These dialogues should build alignment across geographies and sectors while surfacing emerging priorities.
Establish Accountability and Feedback Mechanisms	The ACS-II process must adopt clear accountability frameworks to ensure that NSA recommendations are not only heard but reflected in outcomes. This requires transparent tracking of NSA proposals; real-time communication of decisions; feedback loops that report back on how inputs have been considered and integrated; and mechanisms for follow-up and post-summit engagement.
Clarify NSA Roles in Implementation	Beyond the Summit, NSAs must have a defined role in the execution of agreed outcomes. We propose implementation matrices that specify NSA responsibilities; resource allocation for NSA-led actions; and joint monitoring and learning systems with State actors.
Enable Inputs into Draft Declarations and Summit Texts	As practiced during ACS-I, NSAs must have access to draft declarations, outcome documents, and position papers to provide feedback; flag exclusionary language or policy gaps; and propose revisions that reflect frontline realities. This approach enhances legitimacy, transparency, and shared ownership of outcomes.
Create Inclusive, Child- and Youth-Friendly Spaces	To institutionalize intergenerational engagement, ACSII must establish a Children's Pavilion and dedicated space for youth assemblies (the African Youth Climate Assembly); facilitate national-level youth consultations feeding into a continental position; ensure communications and content are accessible, age-appropriate, and culturally resonant; and support platforms such as the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice and the Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa.
Facilitate NSA Leadership and Independent Convenings	Dedicated platforms should be created for NSAs to host autonomous convenings (e.g., civil society assemblies, women's caucuses, youth summits); organize side events, policy brief launches, and innovation

showcases; or submit official communiqués and declarations for inclusion in final Summit documentation.

Showcase Innovations and Community Solutions

ACS-II must be a space where African NSAs exhibit scalable, community-driven models of climate action. We call for exhibition zones for local technologies, agroecological models, early warning systems, and youth innovations; scientific pavilions where researchers and community scientists engage on equal footing; and the recognition and awards for frontline solutions that demonstrate measurable impact.

IV. Approaches and Strategies for Collaboration in Building a Shared Vision and Agenda

Achieving a successful, inclusive, and transformative Africa Climate Summit-II requires a deliberate framework for collaboration between Non-State Actors (NSAs), the Government of Ethiopia, the African Union Commission (AUC), national governments, and development partners. This framework must be built on mutual respect, transparency, and recognition of complementary roles. To this end, we recommend the following strategic approaches:

Mobilize Support from Development Partners for NSA Participation

Development partners should provide technical and financial support to enable effective and meaningful participation of NSAs in the entire ACS-II process. This includes funding pre-summit consultations and mobilizations; facilitating access for grassroots organizations and marginalized constituencies; supporting NSA-led side events, exhibitions, and knowledge platforms; and building capacity for engagement, especially for underrepresented groups such as women, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and informal networks

Institutionalize NSA Engagement in Planning and Decision-Making

Engagement should be structured and institutionalized, not ad hoc. This can be achieved by formally including NSA representatives in all ACS-II technical and thematic working groups; creating an NSA Coordination Desk or Secretariat embedded in the ACS-II secretariat; establishing official NSA advisory mechanisms to the ACS-II Steering Committee; and recognizing the legitimacy of independent NSA processes as critical inputs into official deliberations.

Leverage NSA Knowledge and Advocacy Tools

NSAs are repositories of community insight, policy innovation, and real-time data. Governments and the AUC should actively utilize NSA policy briefs, alternative reports, and field-based evidence to inform summit positions; collaborate with NSAs on narrative framing, advocacy, and coalition-building to align public messaging; support participatory research and community scorecards that can feed into the evaluation of progress on climate action and SDG targets.

Develop a Joint Strategy for Global Influence

To elevate Africa's voice in global climate diplomacy, NSAs and state actors should co-design a strategy for engagement in international fora such as COP30, the UN General Assembly, the G20, and South-South or Africa-Europe dialogues; conduct joint diplomatic missions

	and coordinated media campaigns; promote a unified African position anchored in equity, justice, and shared prosperity and support coordinated solidarity platforms, including South–South and Pan-African alliances.
Conduct a Dual Stocktake Process	ACS-II must be a moment of reflection and reckoning. We propose two key assessments: A stocktake of ACS-I outcomes (what was promised, what was implemented, and what lessons can inform ACS-II?) and a regional stocktake on the Paris Agreement (Has Africa received its fair share of climate finance, technology, and capacity-building support? Where have gaps and inequities persisted?). These assessments should inform a forward-looking accountability and implementation framework.
Embed Accountability Mechanisms into ACS-II Implementation	To ensure that Summit outcomes translate into impact, governments and NSAs must jointly create follow-up mechanisms for tracking implementation of ACS-II decisions; establish a regular review cycle (e.g., annual or biennial) with shared indicators and benchmarks; publish an ACS-II Implementation Scorecard co-developed by State and non-State actors; and ensure regional economic communities (RECs) and national focal points are aligned with ACS-II follow-up actions.
Provide Spaces for Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Showcases	The Summit must be a living space for collaboration and co-learning. We recommend dedicated pavilions for NSAs to host topical discussions; spaces for showcasing community-based, scalable innovations; networking zones that facilitate cross-sectoral partnership-building; and learning labs, roundtables, and interactive panels driven by NSA expertise.
Establish Clear Communication Channels and Feedback Loops	The summit must ensure a multilingual communication strategy tailored for grassroots audiences; timely and inclusive updates on Summit planning and decision-making; digital and offline platforms for feedback from frontline communities; and regular briefings between NSA focal points and ACS-II organizers
Collaborate on Climate Finance Mobilization	Given the financial scale of climate action, NSAs and state actors must co-develop joint fundraising strategies targeting climate funds, philanthropic sources, and impact investors; Africa-focused financing instruments such as green bonds, adaptation finance pools, and youth innovation funds; and strategies to redirect existing funds (e.g., debt swaps) into community-based resilience building.
Activate the African Diaspora and Afro-Descendant Communities	The African diaspora holds immense potential as a constituency and resource for climate action. ACS-II should develop an engagement strategy targeting African diaspora networks, Afro-descendant groups, and Black-led climate justice movements globally; facilitate diaspora participation in ACS-II through hybrid forums and satellite events; and establish a standing platform for diaspora-led financing, innovation, and advocacy.

Mobilize High-Level Political Champions

Sustained political will is critical to driving implementation. We recommend designating ACS-II Champions at country and AU levels; mobilizing Heads of State and ministers to publicly endorse NSA roles; encouraging national governments to host post-summit NSA briefings and national dialogues; and the launching a “Champions for Justice” platform to showcase leaders advancing equity-based climate action.

V. Strategic Positioning of the African Continent in the Evolving Geopolitical Context

Geopolitical realignments, climate urgency, technological change, and demographic shifts are redefining international cooperation. The Africa Climate Summit-II (ACS-II) must serve as a continental platform for repositioning Africa as a strategic actor in shaping the global climate and development agenda.

Historically marginalized in decision-making spaces, Africa can no longer afford to be a passive observer or a fragmented constituency. The continent must harness ACS-II to forge a new climate diplomacy anchored in justice, solidarity, and shared prosperity.

To achieve this, we recommend the following strategic actions:

Reclaim Africa’s Agency in Global Climate Leadership

ACS-II must assert Africa as a unified, visionary, and principled leader in climate negotiations. The Summit should be a launchpad for consolidating a coherent African position across multilateral platforms; strengthening Africa’s leadership within the UNFCCC, G77+China, and other negotiation blocs; championing bold, justice-centered narratives that reframe Africa not as a victim, but as a climate solutions powerhouse; and establishing Africa-led initiatives that demonstrate innovation, resilience, and ambition. This repositioning must be underpinned by a long-term vision for Africa’s role in steering the direction of global climate governance.

Cultivate Strategic and Honest Partnerships

ACS-II should catalyse a new era of mutually respectful partnerships. Africa must move beyond transactional relationships with external powers and forge strategic alliances based on shared values and mutual accountability; promote South–South cooperation and deepen alliances with Latin America, Asia, and Caribbean countries facing similar climate and development challenges; develop terms of engagement with developed countries that are rooted in solidarity, co-investment, and historical responsibility and refrain from entering partnerships that reinforce extractive models or undermine Africa’s sovereignty over its resources and policy space.

Hold Backsliding Countries and Economic Blocs Accountable

As the climate crisis deepens, many developed countries are walking back on their climate commitments, weakening ambition, shrinking civic space, and reneging on financing pledges. ACS-II must empower African states to boldly denounce climate backtracking and demand compliance with international obligations; defend the recognition of Africa as a region of “special needs and circumstances” under the

	<p>UNFCCC; mobilize collective resistance to new forms of economic coercion, green protectionism, and climate conditionalities that limit Africa’s development choices; and build continental resilience against geopolitical instability and energy insecurity driven by global competition for resources.</p>
Advance a Continental Reparations Campaign	<p>The African Union’s theme for 2025 “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparation” must be advanced through tangible and measurable actions. ACS-II should: provide a platform for launching a pan-African reparations agenda linking climate justice, economic justice, and historical redress; promote global recognition of Africa’s climate debt owed by the Global North, grounded in historical emissions and extractive colonial legacies; call for restitution mechanisms, debt cancellation, and non-debt-inducing financing as reparative climate instruments; position reparations as a structural element of any future climate financing architecture. This agenda must unite governments, civil society, the diaspora, and global allies in building a new moral consensus for global justice.</p>
Define Africa’s Strategic Allies—and Adversaries	<p>The evolving global order demands clarity. Africa must adopt a principled approach to global alignment by identifying allies who are committed to multilateralism, climate justice, and Africa’s development sovereignty; withdrawing support from actors that undermine African interests, perpetuate extractive arrangements, or deploy climate finance as geopolitical leverage; creating a continental climate diplomacy framework that articulates Africa’s red lines, non-negotiables, and conditions for cooperation; and using its collective voice at the UN, G20, BRICS+, WTO, and IMF/World Bank to push for transformative reforms.</p>
Leverage the Continental Free Trade Area and Regional Institutions	<p>ACS-II should: position the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a vehicle for driving climate-resilient industrialization and clean energy trade; align regional economic communities (RECs) with Africa’s climate objectives to ensure policy coherence and resource pooling; create continental strategies for critical minerals beneficiation, regional green value chains, and climate-smart agriculture; and encourage shared infrastructure investments in adaptation, energy access, and transboundary resource governance.</p>
Reframe Africa’s Global Narrative	<p>Africa’s story must no longer be told by others. ACS-II must commit to a powerful narrative shift—one that: centers Africa as a site of climate solutions, innovation, and leadership; rejects victimhood framing and highlights resilience, ingenuity, and solidarity; builds public diplomacy capabilities across the continent to project this narrative in global media, diplomacy, and policymaking spaces; and promotes the intellectual, cultural, and scientific contributions of African peoples to planetary well-being.</p>

VI. Interconnected and Enabling Issues for ACS-II

Achieving Africa's vision for just, inclusive, and transformative climate action requires more than declarations. It demands confronting the structural and systemic barriers that constrain Africa's ability to implement solutions at scale. These enabling issues, particularly global financial architecture reform, responsible critical minerals governance, and multilateral coherence, must be integral to the ACS-II agenda.

We call on the ACS-II to advance the following actions:

Reforming Global Financial Architecture and Economic Systems

The current global financial system is unjust, outdated, and incompatible with Africa's climate and development aspirations. It locks African countries in cycles of debt, limits fiscal space for climate investment, and perpetuates dependency. ACS-II must: Align with the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD-IV)

Africa should use ACS-II to consolidate its positions ahead of FfD-IV by: demanding a new global consensus on equitable, development-aligned finance; championing the principle that finance must "follow the need," particularly for adaptation and resilience-building; advocating for fairer debt restructuring mechanisms and innovative debt relief instruments.

Consolidate Calls for Comprehensive Debt Relief

The continent must unite behind a bold, coordinated call for: immediate cancellation of climate-related debt for African countries; a moratorium on interest payments for countries facing climate shocks; a permanent mechanism for debt swaps that redirect servicing payments to climate-resilient investments and social protection. Africa cannot finance its development while simultaneously servicing illegitimate or morally indefensible debt accumulated under unjust global systems.

Oppose Debt-Based Climate Finance

It is unconscionable that African countries are borrowing to confront a crisis they did not create. ACS-II should: call for non-debt-inducing climate finance instruments; insist that adaptation and loss and damage funding be delivered as public grants, not commercial loans; and reject market-based financialisation of climate risks that transfer burdens to already vulnerable nations.

Demand a Shift Toward Public, People-Centered Climate Finance

Africa must challenge the growing trend of privatised and commercialised climate finance. ACS-II should: advocate for public finance as the core vehicle for climate justice; oppose the repackaging of the climate crisis as an investment opportunity for Global North corporations; and promote governance models that ensure transparency, accountability, and community-led implementation of funded initiatives.

Governing Africa's Critical Minerals for a Just Transition

Africa's vast reserves of cobalt, lithium, rare earths, and other critical minerals are indispensable to the global energy transition. Yet, the extraction of these resources often mirrors colonial patterns—driven by external demand, benefitting foreign entities, and harming local communities.

ACS-II must sound a loud and unequivocal alarm against these injustices and commit to:

Responsible and Rights-Based Extraction

Demand that all critical mineral extraction respect human rights, environmental standards, and the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of affected communities; and call for the development of a continental framework for ethical mining that integrates climate, labor, gender, and ecological safeguards.

End Exploitative “Minerals-for-Infrastructure” and “Protection” Deals

Expose and resist coercive agreements that trade Africa’s mineral wealth for infrastructure built by external powers under opaque conditions; and reject geopolitical manipulation that undermines national sovereignty and long-term development prospects.

Retain Value Through Local Beneficiation

Leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to promote intra-African value chains in critical minerals; commit to processing minerals on the continent to generate jobs, build skills, and grow green manufacturing sectors; and invest in local research and development to support mineral beneficiation and innovation.

Align Critical Minerals Governance with Just Transition Plans

Ensure that national just transition strategies include resource planning, industrial policy, and equitable benefit-sharing; and safeguard mineral revenue for reinvestment in public services, community infrastructure, and renewable energy access.

**Advancing Coherence Across
Multilateral Environmental
Agreements**

Fragmentation between the Rio Conventions—UNFCCC (climate), UNCCD (desertification), and CBD (biodiversity)—is undermining Africa’s capacity to respond effectively to the triple planetary crisis. ACS-II must call for:

Greater Synergy Across Conventions

Promote integrated policy frameworks that link climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and land restoration; align national implementation mechanisms to reduce duplication, optimize resources, and enhance impact; and push for coherence in reporting, financing, and monitoring across all three conventions.

Grant-Based Financing Through Multilateral Mechanisms

Demand a reorientation of multilateral climate finance toward public grants; reaffirm Africa’s call for simplified, direct-access mechanisms that prioritize local actors and remove intermediaries; promote reforms to the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and other UNFCCC financial entities to align with African priorities.

Empower Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)

Advocate for the redesign of financing modalities to channel resources directly to community-led initiatives; promote flexible, decentralized funding that enables local innovation and ownership; and strengthen national systems to recognize and integrate LLA into formal adaptation frameworks.